

**pocketpedia
of human trafficking
in the 21 century**

research project by Zorica Zafirovska



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In order to solve one problem, first of all we should be aware of its existence...

With the beginning of the new millennium, the mankind didn't get new guaranties for their rights and freedom. Each day in this modern society there are some new shapes of rightless deprivation of human rights and freedom. In every society there is a great deal of information on trafficking and exploitation of people. Even the most democratic countries are facing the trafficking with people, which doesn't solely consist of isolated cases of accidental deprivation of human rights, but it is also a result of highly coordinated net of criminal bands that trade with humans. This problem is getting even bigger because on global level trafficking marks an increasing progress.

As we lay our feet on the boulevards and streets, the first thing that catches our eye are the homeless children, which is merely the first contact.

Generally, each of us has been introduced with one or two incidents of trafficking to which we haven't paid any attention; it happens, nothing can be done about it...but that is why this Pocketpedia is sublimite of the human inhumanity.

The initial moment for creating this Pocketpedia was my acknowledgement of the fact that there are catalogues where people – mostly young women and children – are exhibit like objects, like goods on the market, given for a special group of people – the buyers.

I was wondering how this is still possible and how it can be so widely spread and if there is something that I can do about it. I couldn't stay indifferent and passive. That is why I decided to act.

The questions are "why does trafficking still exist?"; "Who is supporting it?"; "Who benefits from those millions of victims?" Maybe the customs officer who will close his eyes when the victims are passing through the border, or the employee, who will issue the false passport, the big profiteers, or maybe all of us who are buying products which are produced by exploited people and children. These questions may never be answered, but they will remain to intrigue (or maybe not) the high governmental structures in every society. However, these structures are on the top of the corporations which benefit from all kinds of organized crime.

How to help? These are the most common and painless methods...

The usual methods of giving away a certain amount of money, as for me, is not quite credible because we can not be sure if the whole amount, through thousands of administrative procedures, will get to the victims who need it the most.

Ten denars for a clean windscreen and we think the help is offered...

Giving a sandwich or candies to the homeless children, doesn't solve their basic problem with stability and home....

Adopting a child can solve only his problems, but not the problems of his family, who maybe only gave birth to him in order to be given for adoption because they have to pay for their slavery....

Volunteering in organizations doesn't allow direct communication with the victims and helping them....

These are examples on which we can directly act, but what happens with the thousands of victims who are kidnapped for sexual exploitation or slavery....

* * * *

At first, this project was designed as catalogue of people who were trafficked – victims. I decided on a radical method – a catalogue, that will be available for everyone. My idea was to shock the audience, to make them more aware of the number of victims of trafficking and the difficulty of their lives. I wanted to treat the recipients like buyers and also like potential victims. To achieve that goal, I contacted nongovernmental and governmental employees who work with trafficked victims, and I tried to use profiles of people – victims of trafficking. I wanted to use only facts, but for protection of victims I had to make this catalogue as a fiction which was not my primary goal. *

Because I couldn't implement my idea, I had to make an informational Pocketpedia for all kinds of trafficking. Therefore, I tried to investigate all kinds of trafficking with people, which are shortly explained in the book. This book represents short review of the events in all the continents, especially in the crises regions, it contains testimonies, statistics, actions, and reactions of governments, organizations and groups, statements of institutions, which are fighting against trafficking with people. I used interesting newspaper articles, photos of victims, and drawings which I made out of photos. My goal is to reach the whole public in order to disclose the number of victims of trafficking and the billions of profits that are realized out of their abuse.

*This catalogue exists only in draft drawing form on 12 pages where 20 imaginary persons are mentioned.

“Pocketpedia of the trafficking in the 21st century”

Human trafficking is a human rights problem.

Human trafficking violates a wide spectrum of human rights including the rights of physical and intellectual integrity, freedom, safety, privacy, health care and etc.

In an attempt to find the reasons for the existence of this problem, there are several underlying properties. - Both sides involved in this process (i) traffickers and (ii) the victims, are characterized by the: (i) readiness for criminal acts, violating of all kinds of moral and legal regulative in order to gain fast profit; (ii) poverty, low level of education, unemployment and lack of information.

The benefits from this trade on the black market are enormous and are widely expanded all over the globe. The practice of the abuse of human rights and forced labor dominates the regions of Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa... The countries in transition as well as industrialized countries are not far behind from these statistics. The figures are stunning, and the number of people involved from all around the world raises up to 3 billions of people, and more than 32 billions of US dollars.

The regional and local situation, as well as the global, is faced with the same circumstances. The countries in transition are faced with overall disinclination of dealing with the issue. The everyday state of insecurity, poverty, the general state of confusion, and lack of information for the consequences, draw a huge number of woman and children into the chain of human trafficking and labor exploitation.

Trafficking in Europe is based on the distributive network of “source countries” (Russia, Moldavia, and Romania), “transit countries” (Albania and ex- Yugoslav republics) and “target countries” (Italy, Germany and France).

According to this definition, Republic of Macedonia fits in the category of transit country and also the destination of the traffickers of women and girls for forced prostitution. The position of Macedonia is a significant link in the chain of human trafficking in the region. Some of the attempts for the disruption of this network are strongly monitored by the media, but the flexibility of the people that are running this business is making the efforts to solve this problem obsolete.

“Pocketpedia of trafficking in the 21st century” is a research project of Zorica Zafirovska. Her focus is discovering the parallel system of human relations and communication and raising awareness for the existence of this problem.

The book consists of three chapters, structured encyclopedically. It is illustrated with drawings from the real time situations represented from the photos of the victims.

It is giving us an insight of the exploitation of human labor in different societies and environments. The given statistics help us to highlight the most critical regions. This geographical journey begins with the classification of the types of trafficking with people, and then gives a detailed look at the subject matter through the overall presence in all the regions around the world. Through the given statistics, we can follow the path of the global trade, the number of people involved in each region, as well as the benefit for those who are trading with humans.

The last part of the book contains testimonies from the victims of trafficking. Here, we are introduced with the method for transferring the victims, their treatment, the abuse they are suffering every day and the most common blackmail method that traffickers use as a way for manipulation with the victims.

Once started, the research goes further on. Each day there are new sources, new information's, new testimonies... The methodology of research embraces: selection of the texts and sources found on internet and collaboration with NGO's in Macedonia which are working with this issue.

In this case the artist plays the role of the editor. The final outcome of the two year research is this book: a base for further development of the project. For her, the process for creation is always triggered by the need for research. She has a sensibility to react to the given state and problems in the society and a strong will to use it in order to raise people's awareness of the given issue. So far, her work was based on the research of the human origin, nature, consciousness and human relations. With this work, she is following the self given path.

The research phase of this project is finalized with this “little” encyclopedia which can be used as a database for further development of this project in some other media.

Elena Veljanovska

...determining...

Trafficking of persons

is a global human rights problem.

Victims are trafficked into a range of forced labor situations including farm work, sweatshops, domestic servitude, and sexual slavery and are subjected to sexual abuse and other forms of violence.

Trafficking involves transporting people away from the communities they live in by the threat or use of violence, deception, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation as forced or enslaved workers.

Trafficking violates a range of human rights, including the rights to: physical and mental integrity; life; liberty; security of the person; dignity; freedom from slavery, slavery-like practices, torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment; family life; freedom of movement; privacy; the highest attainable standard of health; and safe and secure housing.

Why does it exists?

Why are children becoming the most profitable product for criminals?

A drug dealer can sell a little bag of drugs on the street just once.

A weapons dealer can sell a little hand gun on the street just once.

A trafficker can **sell a man, woman or a child** on the street 10, 15, 20 a day;

day after day after day.

No one is going to let go of that kind of **profit**, unless someone takes it from them.

**This is terrorism against
humanity.**

“ Trafficking in humans ” means “ recruiting, transport, transfer, sheltering or accepting persons by the means of blackmail of force as well as other forms of compulsion, kidnapping, fraud, lies, misuse of authorities or vulnerability or giving and receiving money in order to gain permission of the other person in favor of exploitation. Exploitation is even the exploitation for prostitution of other persons or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor of services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or removal of (human) organs ”.

Recruiting, transport, transfer, sheltering or accepting of a child in order to achieve exploitation is considered as part of “ trafficking in humans ” even though it does not involve any of the means mentioned of the wizen above.

Migrant Smuggling means: mediation for illegal entrance of a person in some country by contract, person who is not a habitant of that country enables illegal entrance in another country and even a person who is not that country's permanent habitant, in order to gain direct or indirect financial or other kind of benefits. The main difference between migrant smuggling and trafficking in humans depends on the freedom of choice, which lacks in trafficking in humans.

Prostitution: is a volountary act of offering sexual services in exchange of money or other material benefit. The deference between prostitution and trafficking in humans is the freedom of choice too, which lacks in trafficking in humans.

Victims of trafficking in humans: people who are not part of the category of trafficking in humans according to the article of the UN Protocol.

Trafficking In Children: includes recruitment, transport, and transfer, sheltering and accepting children within or outside the country. The goal this exploitation includes forced prostitution or other kinds of sexual exploitation, forced work or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, subornation or organ removal. The consent of the child-victim is irrelevant, even in the cases when it is not used any of the means of: force, compulsion, kidnapping, fraud, misuse of force or other actions taken while the child is vulnerable or under control of other person.

INTERNAL TRAFFICKING IN HUMANS: includes persons involved in trafficking in humans according to the Palermo Protocol.

Forced Labour: the term “ forced or obligatory labour ” means “ any work or favor which is forced from any person under threat of punishment, for which the person have not applied voluntarily ”.

SLAVERY: According to the Slavery Convention from 1926 “ slavery is a status or a condition of a person, whom are done some or all of the authorizations connected to the property right”. And according to the Additional Convention for abolition of slavery, for the institutions and practices similar to slavery it is said that: “ institutions and practices such as: debtor slavery, serfdom, forced marriage, exploitation of children are supposed to be part of the definition for slavery ”.

Debtor Slavery: The status or the condition which is a result of a promise given by the doctor for his personal favors for the person who is under his control because of some debt. If the value of those services (reasonably estimated) is not impact on the liquidation of the debt or if the framework or nature of those services is not respectively Restricted and defined.

Servitude: it is a “ condition or status of a tenant, who by law, custom or agreement is obliged to live and work on the land that belongs to other person and to do certain favor to that person, whether for award or not, and he is not free to change his status ”.

Removal Of (human) Organs: is illegal transplantation of human organs one person to another. The European Parliament in 2003 passed a legislative resolution for prevention of trafficking in human organs as illegal all owed Europe.

Children On The Streets: Children under the age of eighteen who, alone or with their parents, spend most of the day on the streets earning money by beginning, doing favors to the passers - by or their vehicles, selling products considered as illegal, collecting paper, old iron, food products or clothes usually from the garbage.

**...facts
about
trafficking...**

Labor Trafficking - Most instances of forced labor occur as unscrupulous employers take advantage of gaps in law enforcement to

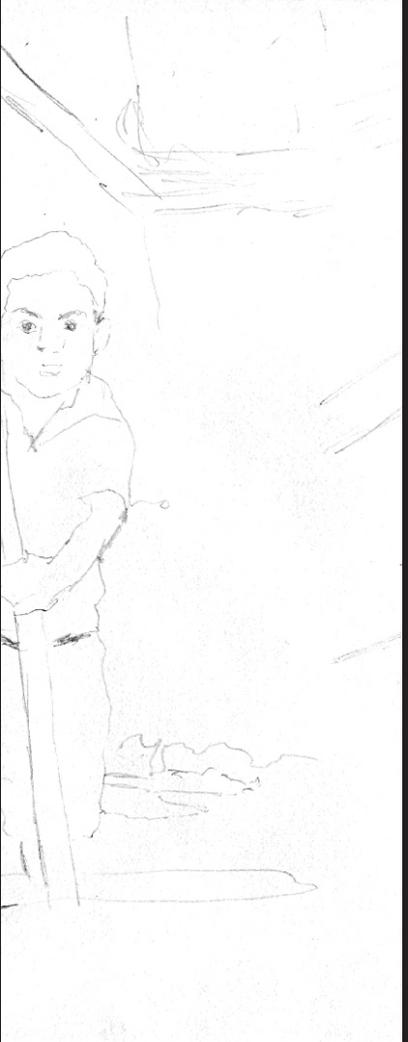
exploit vulnerable **Workers**. These workers are made more vulnerable to forced labor practices **because** of unemployment, **poverty**, *crime*, **discrimination**, **corruption**, political conflict, and cultural acceptance of the practice. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable, but individuals are also forced into labor in their own countries. Female victims of forced or bonded labor, especially women and girls in domestic servitude, are often sexually abused. Forced labor is a form of human trafficking that can be really hard to identify. Many individuals are guilty of subjecting one domestic servant or hundreds of unpaid workers at a factory to involuntary servitude.

The International Labor Organization estimates that: At least

12.3 million people are victims of **forced labor** more than
2.4 million have been **trafficked**
9.8 million are **exploited** by private agents
2.5 million are **forced** to work by the state or by
 rebel military groups. The **profits** from forced trafficked labor
 are estimated to be in excess of **\$25 billion.**

Involuntary Servitude - **People** become trapped in involuntary servitude when they believe an attempted escape from their situation would result in serious physical harm to them or others, or when they **are** kept in a condition of servitude through the **abuse** or threatened **abuse** of the legal processes. Victims are often economic migrants and low-skilled laborers who are trafficked from less developed communities to more prosperous and developed places. Many victims are **physically and verbally** abused, experience breach of an employment contract, and/or are **held captive** (or perceive themselves as held captive).





facts

Bonded Labour - One form of force or coercion is the use of a bond, or debt, to keep a person under subjugation. This is referred to in law and policy as "bonded labor" or

"debt bondage." Many workers around the world fall victim to debt bondage when traffickers or recruiters

unlawfully exploit an initial debt the worker assumed as part of the terms of employment or when workers inherit debt in more traditional

systems of bonded labor. Traditional bonded labor in South Asia **enslaves**

huge numbers of people from **generation to generation.**

About a fifth of people in forced labor have been trafficked. UN estimates suggest that,

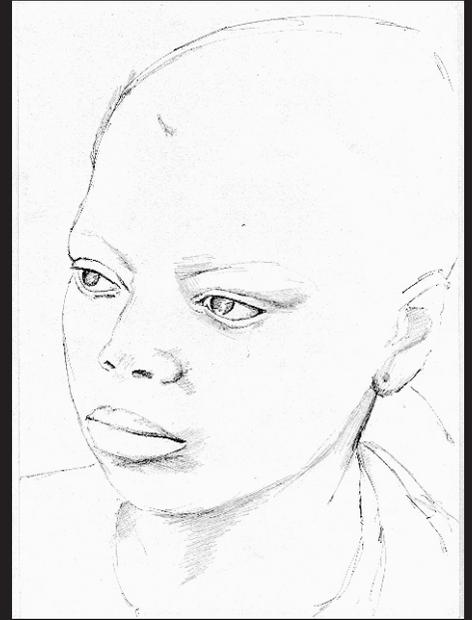
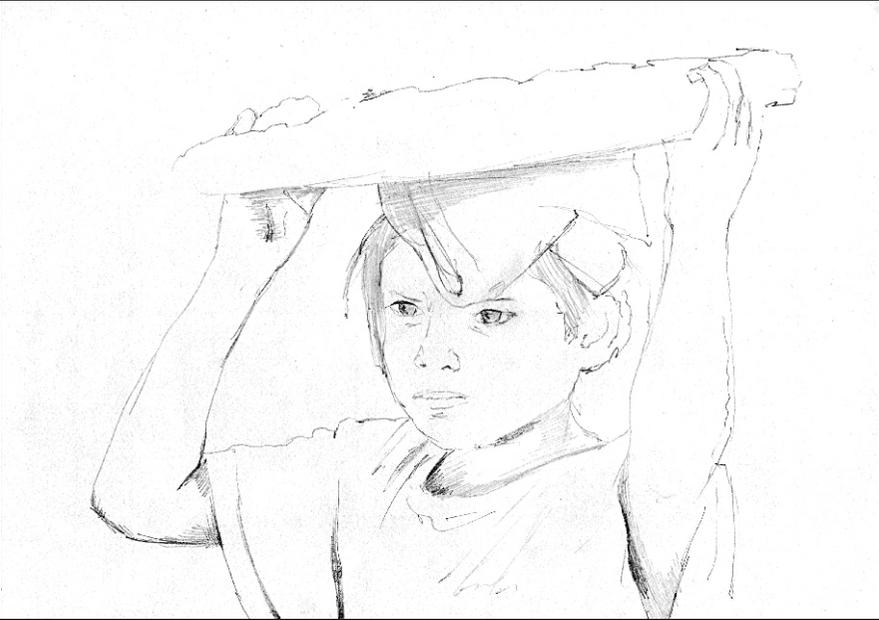
at any point in time, some **2.5 million men,** women and children are victims of trafficking. It is estimated they produce more than

\$31bn a year in illicit profits - half of it in industrialized countries. At a

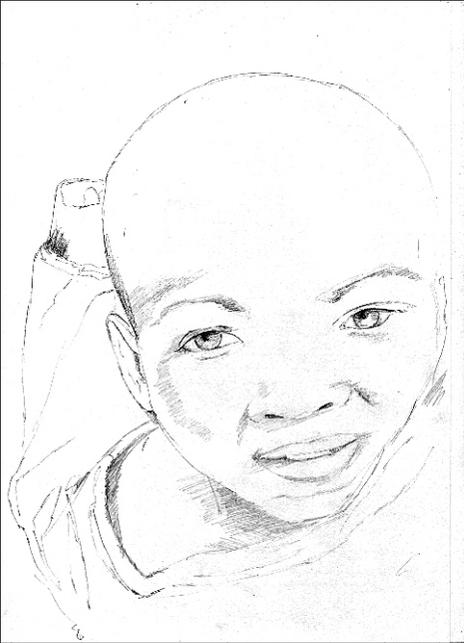
global level, this represents about **\$13,000** per

year for **each** trafficked forced laborer.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Asia and Pacific | trafficked forced laborer | 1360 000 | generated profits | 9704000 |
| Industrialized countries | trafficked forced laborers | 270 000 | generated profits | 15513000 |
| Latin America & Caribbean | trafficked forced laborers | 250 000 | generated profits | 1348000 |
| Mid-East North Africa | trafficked forced laborers | 230 000 | generated profits | 1508000 |
| Transition countries | trafficked forced laborers | 200 000 | generated profits | 3422000 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | trafficked forced laborers | 130 000 | generated profits | 159000 |



An estimated **218 million Children** aged 5-17 are engaged in **child labor**, excluding child domestic labor. Some **126 million** of these children **are** believed to be engaged in hazardous situations or conditions, such as **working in mines**, **working with chemicals and pesticides** in agriculture or working with **dangerous machinery**. They are everywhere but invisible, toiling as domestic servants in homes, laboring behind the walls of workshops, **hidden** from view **in plantations**. Millions of girls who work as domestic servants are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. An estimated **1.2 million children** **are trafficked**, forced into debt bondage or other forms of **slavery** **5.7 million**, into prostitution and pornography **1.8 million**, into participating in **armed conflict** **0.3 million** or other illicit activities **0.6 million**. However, the vast majority of child laborers – 70 per cent or more – work in agriculture.



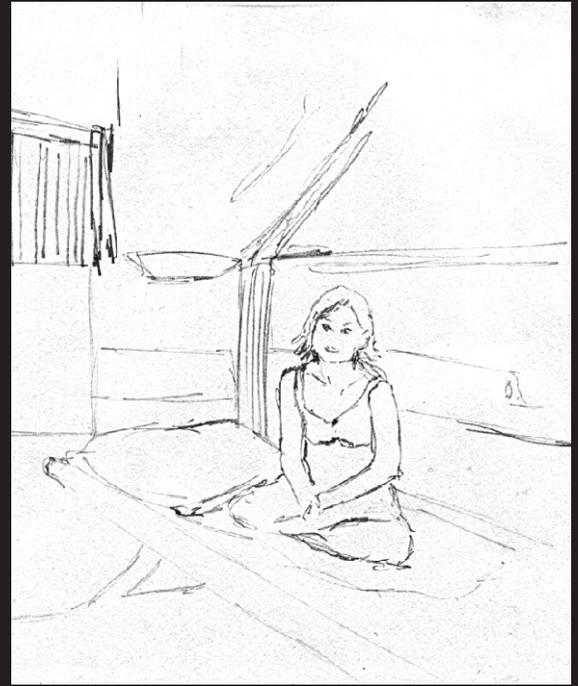
Baby selling is not an acceptable route to adoption and can include many attributes

in common with human trafficking. Though baby selling **is illegal**, it would not necessarily constitute human trafficking where it occurs for adoption, based on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the UN Protocols on Trafficking in Persons and the Sale of Children, the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, and definitions of adoption established by US jurisdictions. The purposes of baby selling and human trafficking are not necessarily the same. Some individuals assume that baby selling for adoption is a form of human trafficking because trafficking and baby selling both involve making a profit by selling another person. However, illegally selling a child for adoption would not constitute

trafficking where the child **is** not to be exploited. Selling babies generally results

in a situation that is non-exploitative with respect to **the child**. Trafficking, on the other hand, implies

exploitation of the victim. If an adopted child **is** subjected to **coerced labor or sexual exploitation**, then it constitutes a case of human trafficking.



Sexual Slavery is a special case of slavery which includes various different practices: forced prostitution, single-owner sexual slavery, ritual slavery, sometimes associated with traditional religious practices, slavery for primarily non-sexual purposes where sex is common or permissible.

Profits_{per} **forced prostitute:**

industrialized countries: \$67,200;

Middle East: \$45,000;

Transition countries: \$23,500;

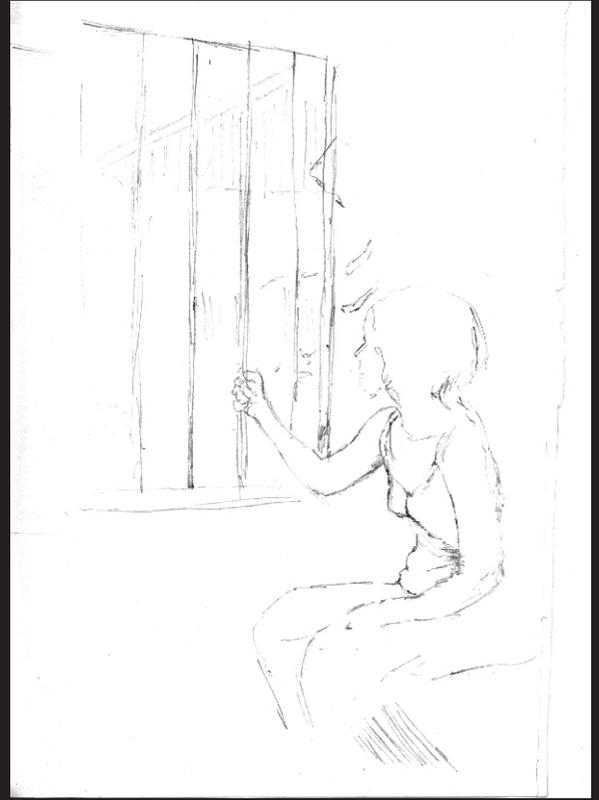
Latin America: \$18,200;

Asia and Africa: \$10,000;

In general, the nature of slavery means that the slave is de facto available for sex, and ordinary social conventions and legal protections that would otherwise constrain an owner's actions are not effective. For example, extra-marital sex between a married man and a slave was not considered adultery in most societies that accepted slavery. Female slaves are at highest risk of sexual abuse and sexual slavery.

The term **"sex slave"** and "consensual sexual slavery" are sometimes used in BDSM to refer to a consensual agreement between sexual partners. This should not be confused with the meaning of the term, which **refers** specifically to unwilling slavery.

Sexual activity is often seen as a private matter, making communities reluctant to act and intervene in cases of sexual exploitation. These attitudes make children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Myths, such as the belief that HIV/AIDS can be cured through sex with a virgin, technological advances such as the Internet which has facilitated child pornography, and sex tourism targeting children, all add to their vulnerability.



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

Mexico's social service agency reports that there are more than 16,000 children engaged in prostitution, with tourist destinations being among those areas with the highest number.

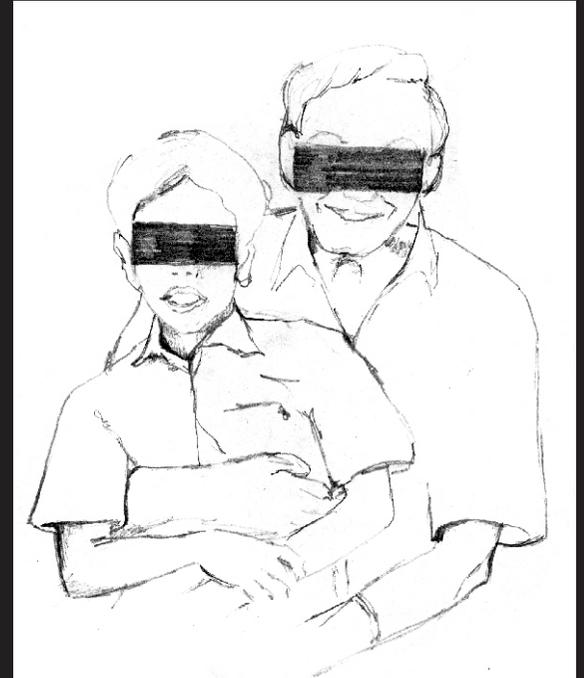
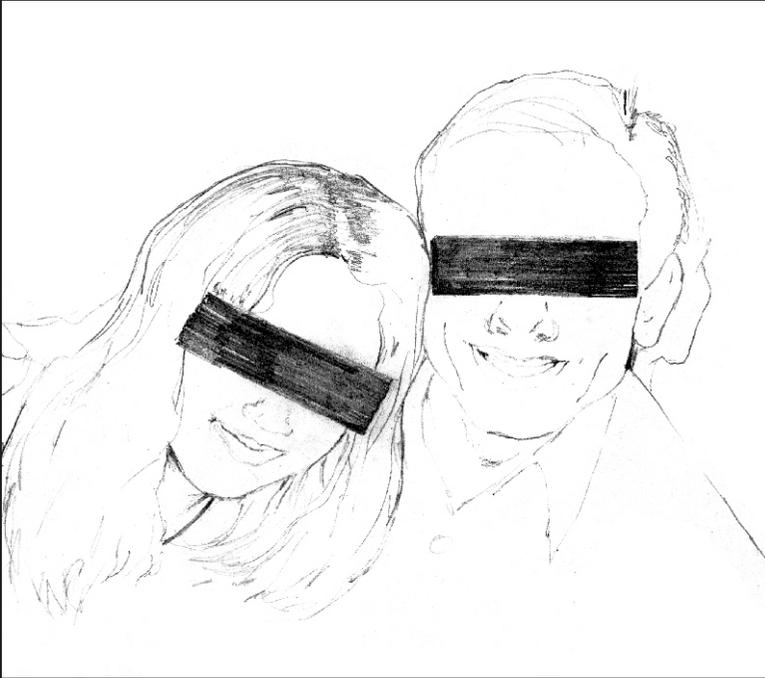
In Lithuania, 20 to 50 percent of prostitutes are believed to be minors. **Children** as young as **age 11** are known to work as **prostitutes**. Children from children's homes, some 10 to 12 years old, have been used to make **pornographic movies**.



Children **Exploited** for Commercial Sex - Each year, more than **two million** children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade.

Children are also **trapped in prostitution** despite the fact that a number of international covenants and protocols impose upon parties an obligation to criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The use of children in the commercial sex trade is prohibited under both U.S. law and the UN TIP Protocol. There can be no exceptions, no cultural or socio-economic rationalizations that prevent the rescue of children from sexual servitude.

Terms such as **"child sex worker"** are unacceptable because they sanitize the **brutality** of this exploitation.



Child sex tourism (CST) involves people who travel from their own country to another and engage in commercial sex acts with children. CST is a shameful assault on the dignity of children and a form of **violent child abuse**. The commercial sexual exploitation of children has devastating consequences for minors, which may include long-lasting **physical and psychological trauma, disease** (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted **pregnancy**, malnutrition, social ostracism, and possibly **death**. Tourists engaging in CST often **travel** to developing countries looking for **anonymity** and the **availability of children in prostitution**.

The crime is typically fueled by weak law enforcement, corruption, the Internet, ease of travel, and poverty. Sexual offenders come from all socioeconomic backgrounds and may hold positions of trust. Child pornography is frequently involved in these cases, and drugs may also be used to solicit or control the minors.

Child marriages

violate the rights of the child in many ways, but the most concerning violation is a girl's right to consent, and this right is continually violated through the life of

the marriage for most girls. How do we end this outdated practice, which continues to **violate**

the **rights of girls** across the globe?

The causes and implications of child marriage, are complex and interconnected, thus there is no simple solution in eradicating child marriage. In order to end child marriage for good we must look at all the source reasons that people continue to practice child marriage; poverty, marginalization of girls, illiteracy, lack of education, poor health. To find an end to child marriage, States and the International Community, must ensure that families are educated about the true effects of child marriage, and see that sustainable solutions are put in place. Making education available for girls, seeing families have alternatives to paying debts, eliminating poverty, providing health education on HIV/AIDS and other diseases, are all needed to end the suffering of girls across the globe, and put child marriage in the past, where it belongs.

Child marriages cover the globe, and are most **common** in **sub-Saharan**

Africa and South **Asia**, including **Ethiopia**, Democratic Republic of **Congo**,

Afghanistan, **Nepal**, and **Bangladesh**. However child marriages

continue in other parts of the world, including **South America** and among the

Roma of Europe.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, has estimated that 5,000 women are murdered by family members each year worldwide in "honor killings" - crimes against women in the name of safeguarding "honor" within the family or the community.

According to UNICEF, the results of a study in 2000, showed 86% of street children stated violence was a regular issue, while another survey showed 50% had been exposed in some manner to rape.

Child soldiering

is a unique and severe manifestation of trafficking in persons that involves the unlawful recruitment of children

through force, fraud, or coercion to

be exploited for their labor or to be abused as sex slaves in conflict areas. Such unlawful practices may be perpetrated by government forces, paramilitary organizations, and rebel groups. UNICEF estimates that more

than **300,000** children under 18 are currently being exploited in more than 30 armed

conflicts worldwide. While the majority of child soldiers are between the ages of 15 and 18, some are **as**

young as 7 or 8 years of age.

Many children are abducted to be used as combatants. Others are made unlawfully to serve as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Many young girls are forced to marry or have sex with male combatants

and are at high risk of pregnancy. **Male and female** child soldiers **are** often sexually

abused and are at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Some children have been forced to commit atrocities against their families and communities. Child soldiers are

often **killed or wounded**, with survivors often suffering multiple traumas and psychological scarring. Their personal development is often irreparably damaged. Returning child soldiers are often rejected by their home communities.

Child soldiers are a global phenomenon. The problem is most critical in Africa and Asia, but armed groups in the Americas and the Middle East also unlawfully use children in conflict areas. All nations must work together with international organizations and NGOs to take urgent action to disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate child soldiers.

Organs Trafficking Underworld - "Economic globalization has been accompanied by a depletion of humanism. . .

Altruism has been replaced by domestic demand . . . for **'fresh organs'** " where

the value of human tissue **is measure in terms of dollars**

"Stark trends of inequality in the trade of body parts and tissues" have emerged. The trafficking in body parts "is an elusive form of trafficking, because it involves top professionals," such as medical insurers, lab technicians, surgeons, and so on. Rarely are questions asked about where - and from whom - transport organs came from.

The goals of Organs Watch are to map global trafficking in organs, to identify hospitals, **"renegade surgeons**, brokers, business operations . . . that facilitate" **trade in body parts**, and "to determine the social, political, and economic consequences" of trafficking in body parts.

Pursuing these goals involves actual field work. The methods Scheper-Hughes uses include multi-sided ethnographic and documentary research in twelve countries, structure interviews of key informants, and on-site collaboration with students and documentary filmmakers. Via this sort of fieldwork, troubling problems that surround organ trafficking has emerged: race, class, and gender inequalities; flagrant violation of laws; the exploitation of prisoners, the mentally ill, and the homeless.

"The circulation of organs follows the modern routes of capital: from south to north; from third world to first world; from poor to rich; from black and brown to white women are rarely the recipients of purchased organs." Prices of organs also follow world markets.

For instance, a kidney in Iraq can be purchased **for \$500 to \$1,000**; in Manila, \$1,000; in Lima, Peru, **around \$10,000**; and in the United States, **\$30,000**.

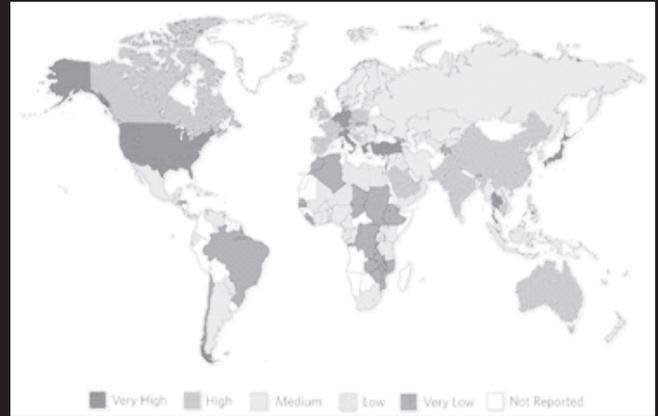
Who are the buyers? They are the rich and medically insured, those who reject dialysis, and those

who refuse organs from cadavers as "unhealthy, unnatural." **Who are the sellers?**

Essentially, the young and poor, especially in places like Russia and Moldova: those who are in debt, those who are seeking ways to feed their family, and so on. Who are the brokers? Scheper-Hughes identified those who facilitate the buying and selling of organs as "international transplant coordinators," business corporations, doctors, religious and patient rights organizations, and local criminals.



Countries of Origin, as measured by the extent of reporting of trafficking



Countries of Destination, as measured by the extent of reporting of trafficking

Countries whose governments do **not** fully **comply** with the minimum **standards** and are not making significant efforts to do so: Belize, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burma, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Georgia, **Greece, Kazakhstan**, Liberia, North Korea, Sudan, **Suriname**, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

No Tier Rating the Department was unable to place the following countries in tiers because of extenuating circumstances in transition states, and information that is incomplete, unclear, contradictory, or difficult to corroborate. These cases merit special mention because there are indications of trafficking in each of these countries. In some cases, there is no effective central government or the central government does not exercise control over the country. These transitional governments cannot be fairly evaluated on actions by previous governments. In addition, the Department did not assign a tier-rating to the USA. The Bahamas, Haiti, Kiribati, Swaziland, Turkmenistan, Somalia, Solomon Islands, Ireland, Iraq, Brunei, Barbados, Tunisia, Lesotho.

Countries whose governments **fully** comply with the Act's **minimum standards**:

Austria, Belgium, **Benin**, Colombia, **Czech Republic**, Denmark, Germany, Ghana, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Republic of Korea, **Lithuania**, Macedonia, Mauritius, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, **Sweden**, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

Countries whose governments **do not fully** comply with the Act's **minimum standards** but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d' Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, **Equatorial Guinea**, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, The Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kirghiz Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, **Republic of Moldova**, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, **Venezuela**, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**...stories
and
reports...**

The trade in Europe relies on a distribution network of **source countries (Russia, Moldavia, Ukraine and Romania)**, transit countries (Albania and the former Yugoslavian republics) and **target countries (Italy, Germany and France)**. Trafficking has grown enormously and the business is booming. According to Gerard Stoudmann of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, prostitution is "a far less dangerous business than drugs trafficking since there is no international legal framework to combat it".

Another key recruiting centre is Moscow, which supplies German, Polish and Asian markets **330 Russian companies do prostitution-related business, sending 50,000 women abroad every year**. In Poland foreign prostitutes are concentrated on the main roads to Germany, as they are in the Czech Republic where Ukrainian and Russian women work. According to Animus, a

Bulgarian women's association, **10,000 Women have fallen into the hands of pimps in Bulgaria**. In Europe alone, officials estimate that more than 200,000 women and girls — one-quarter of all women trafficked globally — are smuggled out of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics each year, the bulk of who end up working as enslaved prostitutes. Almost half are transported to Western Europe. Roughly a quarter ends up in the United States. Human rights activists say the numbers do not tell the full story, because most women remain silent rather than turn to frequently corrupt authorities for help.

~~The rapid rise of this sex slave trade can be traced to the fall of the Soviet Union, where borders once heavily guarded by the Red Army suddenly became porous and Soviet republics and Eastern European satellites once in the Kremlin's grasp saw their industries and subsidies collapse overnight.~~

Belgium - Case: Albanian boys were used in the making of pornography films by a **Belgium child pornography network on the island of Corfu. The videos were sold internationally.**

Public Response: 20,000 people marched through Brussels on 14 February 1998, to express anger at Belgium's lack of policy reform in the wake of a child molestation case.

In April 1997 the Parliament **found the deaths of four girls**, held and abused by Marc

Dutroux, on police blunders and inaction. **250,000 Belgians marched in**

Brussels on 20 October 1996 **in acts of grief and anger** over the deaths of the girls and in demand for a better government.

Germany - Cases: Twenty four women, from Poland, Russia, Italy, Albania, and Turkey were freed by police during a raid on a German brothel where they were held as slaves and prostituted. Two of the women had

been locked up for 7 months without seeing daylight. A criminal gang of sixteen suspects, from Turkey, Italy and Albania were arrested; police are searching for six others. Three Ludenscheid police officers allegedly were working with trafficking network. The operation was one of the largest ever against an organized crime ring in Germany.

At least 200 women, including girls under the age of 16, were trafficked by one Polish man to Germany and the Netherlands between 1993 and 1996.

Two German lawyers, Bernd Malitzki, 31, and Sabine Pohl-Jovanovic, 37, offered to acquire a Czech girl of 12-14 for "extreme sex games" for DM12,000, if she died they would dispose of the body for DM3,000 (US\$1,580). They used the Internet for initial contacts under the nicknames of "Sado-Hangman" and "Leather-Witch." Malitzki said he was a practicing sado-masochist. Police found a soundproofed torture room in their home in Stephanskirchen, near Rosenheim in southern Germany.

A suspect detained in connection with the **international child pornography** network based in **the Netherlands** had confessed to **sexually abusing his 12-year-old son** over a period of 18 months and to having taken a photograph of his son which was later posted on Internet site for child-porn pictures.

Poland - At least 200 women, including girls under the age of 16, were trafficked by one Polish man to Germany and the Netherlands between 1993 and 1996.

Poland is a destination country for trafficking in Bulgarian women it is a transit country for women from Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus. At least 3,500 Bulgarian prostituted women are in Poland and more than 1,000 from Ukraine and Belarus. In 1997, police registered 200 cases of attempted smuggling of women to Western brothels.

Case - **A child prostitution ring**, with a computer list of more than 1000 names, including 100 foreign clients, from Europe and Russia, was uncovered in Szczecin in November 1996. **It may be the largest child sex crime in the country's history.**

France - Case - An **international call-girl ring** headquartered in Paris, which **charged up to \$9,000 a night for its young women**, was uncovered in June after a 16-year-old aspiring model from Sweden, was raped by a 70-year-old Lebanese banker aboard a luxury yacht in St. Tropez. Annika Brumark, charged with pimping on a large scale is believed to have had an address book including the names of 40 Scandinavian, French and British women. Case - Seven French men were convicted in Draguignan

under a new French law for **child sex tourism** in Romania. They were **sentenced to 5-15 years.**

Cases - Two men were convicted in September 1997 of supplying pedophile videos to a nationwide network of clients. The man who shot the films in Colombia received a three-year sentence while the distributor of the films was jailed for two-and-a-half years.

Nearly 70 people were fined or given suspended jail terms for possessing pedophile videos. Five men killed themselves after the highly publicized investigation.

As of July 1997, possession of **child pornography** is not a crime.

Republic of Macedonia is recognized as a **transit and destination** country for trafficking in women and girls **for forced prostitution**, particularly in the tourist areas of Struga and Ohrid in the south, and the predominantly Albanian towns of Tetovo and Gostivar in the west. This situation has arisen partly as a result of the comparative ease with which tourists can enter Republic of Macedonia compared to West European countries, and partly as a result of the presence of a great number of foreign soldiers from UNPREDEP, UNPROFOR, KFOR and other foreign missions.

Women enter Republic of Macedonia legally or illegally from **Serbia** (area of Kumanovo, part of **Kosovo** and the area of **Tetovo**) and **Bulgaria** (Kriva Palanka, Delcevo and Strumica). The **illegal channels** to exit Republic of Macedonia are from **Dojran** and **Gevgelija** to Greece and from the area of **Struga** to Albania. The women are coming mainly from the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The number of Bulgarian women has decreased and it is expected to become even smaller with the introduction of a Schengen visa for Bulgaria. Because of the change in the situation in Kosovo – new legislation on trafficking, raids on clubs and more police actions against traffickers – there is reportedly a new pattern emerging of removing trafficked women from Kosovo to Republic of Macedonia.

As elsewhere in the region, it is reported by most sources working on trafficking that many of the trafficked women were deceived by promises of work and then lured and forced into prostitution. Most women are trafficked by organized crime networks, which stretch between the Balkans and the countries of origin. These groups are invariably involved in arms and drugs trafficking too.

According to local sources, during the beginning of the armed conflict in 2001, several factors have affected trafficking and/or information on the trafficking situation:

Trafficking in women has decreased, as dealing in arms during the conflict is more profitable;

In UCK controlled territory, the bars were closed at the beginning of the conflict and drinking alcohol and using prostitutes were prohibited for religious reasons. However, according to other sources, bars were only temporarily closed so that protection money could be collected from the owners;

Due to the conflict, UN personnel and KFOR soldiers from Kosovo stopped visiting the tourist areas of Struga and Ohrid, which resulted in less clients and slower business;

Some women have been allowed to go home by the traffickers because the conflict has caused reduced demand and slower business;

Reported internal conflicts between criminal groups in the region, who are fighting to dominate the sex market;

Lack of access to the conflict area makes it difficult to assess the current situation;

Lack of police presence and actions against traffickers is resulting in a lack of information and control.

During the first nine months of 2001, 7490 persons were stopped and accused of illegally crossing the border.

Women who are judged to be illegal migrants are accused of illegal border crossing and deported to the border.

According to various sources, the estimated number of women in Republic of Macedonia who might be victims of trafficking varies from 1500 to 2500. Debt bondage is the most common, as women work to pay back the money bar owners spent on buying them. The moment the debt is paid, women are sold on, so that they have no money of their own and are constantly dependent on traffickers. Prostitution is more often carried on from hotels and rented apartments, than from clubs and brothels, because of the criminal charges that can be filed against the owners. Women are sent to see clients with taxi drivers who are paid by the club owners and are supposed to watch them.

Velesta, a village in the south-western corner of the country near the border with Albania, is a well-known place with many bars serving mainly KFOR soldiers on weekend leave from Kosovo. Velesta has been well known for prostitution for years, and the police did take action against bar owners in Summer 2000 (August-Sept.), in September 2001 – when raids were organized after they were alerted by the La Strada Foundation from Moldova, about Moldavian women kept in Velesta (as the result, 15 women from Romania and Moldova were freed and put into a shelter).



VELESTA, Macedonia — Olga winced as she drew back the bandage on her right breast, revealing an infected puncture wound that hadn't healed since a man bit her in a fit of sexual rage. But the wound, for which the 19-year-old Moldovan lacked even basic medicine, is only a small part of Olga's daily agony. For more than a year

in this town in western

Macedonia, where human trafficking flourishes and young girls are forced to endure the sexual whims of thousands of men.

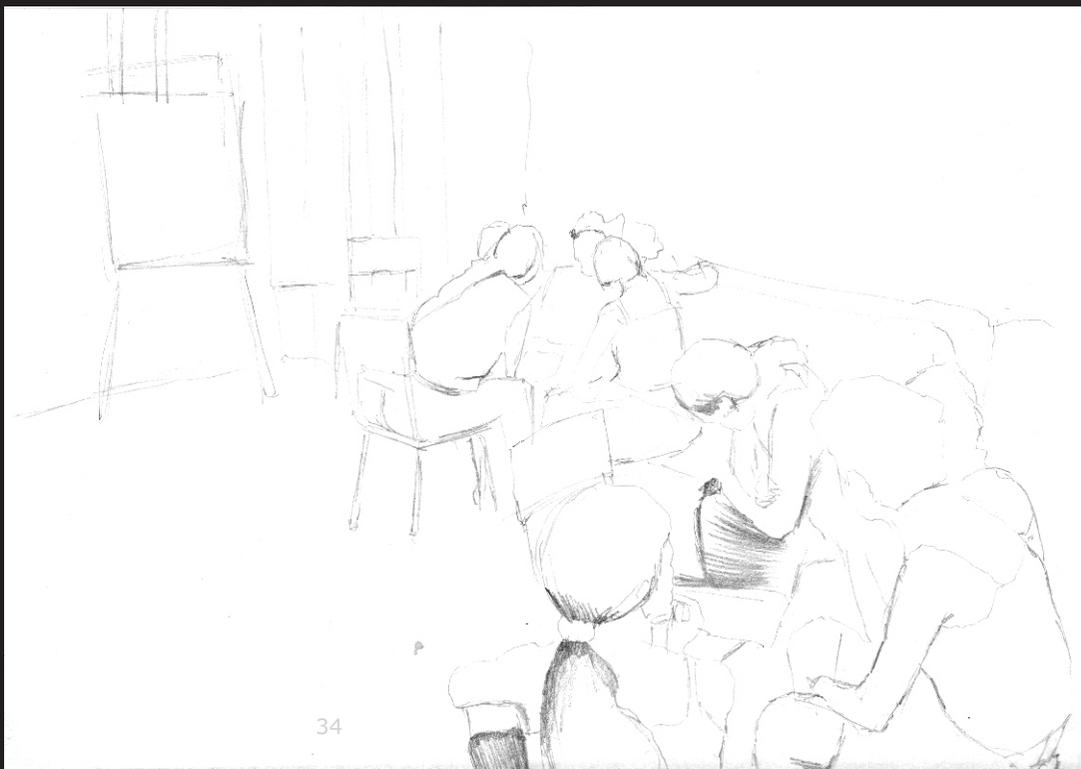
Olga, was kidnapped when she played hooky from school in rural Moldova. Initially, she was drawn to the prospect of a new life in Italy — far away from her alcoholic mother and abusive brother. But the next thing she knew, a Serb smuggler called "Dragan" was pulling her out of a car trunk in the Romanian town of Timisoara, on the border with Yugoslavia. Dragan and his Romanian pals loaded 10 girls on a boat to cross the Danube. After a few days in a basement near Belgrade, Olga was led across the Serbian frontier with Macedonia — under the eyes of obliging border guards — and brought to Velesta. "There were clients on the very first night," she said. With no passport and little idea where she was, Olga was raped, beaten into submission and humiliated until she no longer had the will to challenge her horrible fate prostitution that police and experts consider one of the most dangerous places in Europe, Olga said that her "owner" would kill her for telling a reporter about her state of captivity. But the cruel conditions under which she is held, and her deteriorating mental and physical health, compelled her to speak out. Her head hung in shame, Olga's dark brown eyes welled with tears. She brushed back her long black hair, revealing a fair complexion flushed with anger at her fate. "There is only one word for

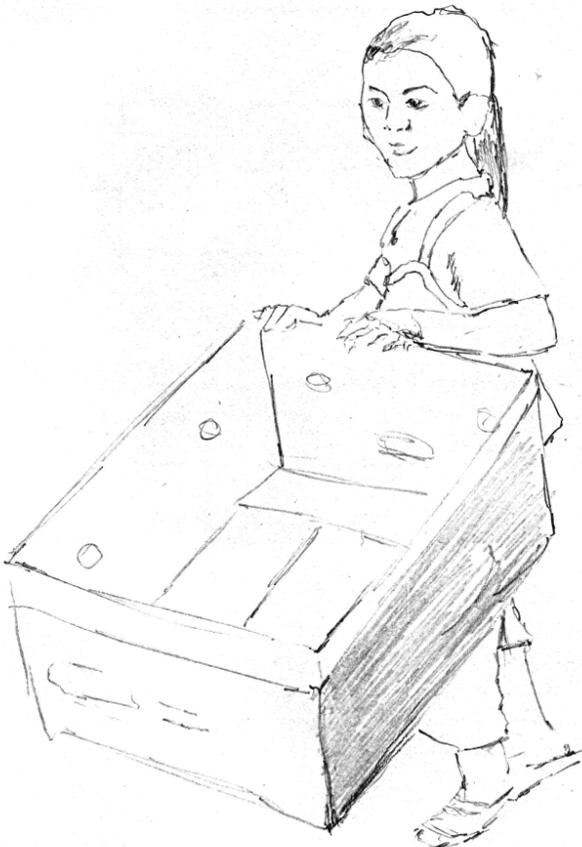
this," she said. **"Slavery."**

"Meti made me clean the toilet with my tongue. It was horrible and dirty. I think they did it because I was the newest girl," Olga said of her ethnic Albanian owner.

Olga told us that occasionally there were "good clients" among the thousands of men she was forced to service. I pressed her to explain what could be "good" about men who were raping her. "They are good if they don't beat you. They are good if they just have sex. Sometimes they bring me a present." Other women told how "owners" frequently treat one slave better than the others, showering her with gifts and not forcing as many clients upon her. To survive, the woman becomes the pimp's lover — and rises up in the hierarchy of Velesta's brothels. The girls call the pimp "Papa" and his mistress "Mama." "Mama" still lives with all the girls, but she's "Papa's" spy, informing on anyone who plots to escape. Sometimes a mistress will enter into business with the pimps, who pay her handsomely to return home and recruit more girls with false promises of well-paid work in Europe.

drawing made from:
Psycho social
assistance of women
victims of trafficking -
The brochure is result
of two and a half year
working expedience of
the Association "For
Happy Childhood" with
women victims of
trafficking sheltered in
The Transit Center for
Foreigners in Skopje,
with in a Program for
assistance
implemented by the
International
Organization for
Migrations.





Roma children were often organized into groups by Roma adults and made **to beg for money at busy intersections**, street corners, and in restaurants and cafes.

According to some estimates, there were between 500 and 1 thousand street children in the country, most of whom were Roma. With international support, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy operated a day center for street children. There were no official reports of child labor during the year; however, there was evidence that child labor was used in the "gray economy," including for begging on the street and selling cigarettes and other small items at open markets, in the streets, and in bars or restaurants, sometimes at night. The children involved in these activities were almost exclusively Roma. Officials did not punish such violations and children remained vulnerable to exploitation. There have been evidences

about **little** children of **Roma** nationality, who

are **sold** by their parents

"on daily basis", allegedly

at a price of around **5 EUR**.

These children can be seen on the streets in the centre of Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, as beggars, car-washers on the traffic lights or performing other illegal

activities. Very **little** is known about

the alleged **"black market"**

of babies, apart from what has been

reported in the media. This should be investigated more thoroughly by the government institutions, having in mind that the acts of selling of babies is a criminal act and according to the Penal Law, the perpetrators are responsible for abandonment of helpless person and change of family situation.

Confessions of women victims of human trafficking - Youth dreams trapped in the network of prostitution

- How did the traders with women trafficking victims acted on **the relation Petric-Skopje-**

Gostivar? Rented apartments in certain counties of Skopje (Kapistec, Karpos and Nova Zeleznicka) were transformed into brothels and the price of sexual intercourse was set on 4.000 denars per hour.

Five persons in year 2002 were brought to the justice; they were convicted of trafficking and forcing one Bulgarian and 3 Moldavian women in having sexual intercourse with men for money. These are their confessions:

1. Stanislava Borisova, 23 years, Bulgarian - "In May, last year, I was visiting my mother in Petric. I was planning to stay there for 2-3 days. One night I went out to the disco, and stayed there wary late. When the party was over I went home alone. In one street corner I came across 4 men who instantly abducted me. They brought me to some house and kept me there for a day. The next day came a man whose name later I found out is Borce Mladenovski. He took out 800 euros from his pocket and gave the money to the kidnappers. Then he grabbed me by the hands and through the woods we brake across the other side of the border. A car was waiting for us there, so we drove to some bus-station left the car there and continue to Skopje by a bus. He settled me in an apartment near Nova Zeleznicka, this apartment, as she got to realize, was owned by his friend Milovan Jevtik who had another apartments in Kapistec."

When she got trapped in the network of women trafficking by these five traders she wasn't aware that she will reach the bottom and will be abused as a prostitute. Stanislava in her confession truly expresses the most intimate feelings in the period of her slavery.

"I stayed in the apartment for 3-4 days. The fourth day I was supposed to have oral sex with a client. The man worked at customs (carina). I was afraid of diseases so I refused, then Borce slapped me hard and blood started running from my nose. He ordered me not to tell anyone about this and then he went to Greece with his lovers Ljudmila and Nela. I spent the whole time in the same apartment with Goran and Mico who were correct with me. In one month I had sex with 35 clients."

The clients came to the apartments in Kapistec and Nova Zeleznicka. Also the Bulgarian girl was taken to hotels and client's apartments, the sex charge for Macedonians and Albanians was set on 4.000 denars per hour, or 80 euros for foreigners. Her working time was set from 4 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next day. At 4 p.m. every day she had to be bathed, dressed, with make-up and waiting for a new client. She says her owners feed her like a dog, only with bred. In those apartments were other girls also from other foreign countries. One of those girls was the 30 year old Maria Pavlov. According to her story 6 months ago she took out from Moldavia to escape the social misery and find a better life in some other part of the world.

2. Maria Pavlov, 30 years, Moldavia - "I took out from Moldavia to work as a stripper in Kosovo. On the way I stopped in Belgrade, I stayed there for 4 days. I made a deal with 3 men to take me to Urosevac where I was engaged as a stripper by so-called boss Sejfo, for a one and a half month. It was good there. Then I understood that in Macedonia I can get paid more, so we went there together with one Moldavian and 3 Romanian girls. We were supposed to be carried there by a car, but during the way we found out we were sold and that we will have to work as prostitutes. One Romanian girl and I escaped and got on the road to report the case, the other girls escaped in the woods. Soon two men in a red car with Skopje registration plates caught us. They carried us across the wood to Palciste in some hotel where some man named Jemo came to us. One of the men carried around a pistol with him during the whole time. They took our passports and cell-phones and told us that we are going to do the "belly-dance". All of the girls were sleeping in Jemo's nightclub on the first floor. One week later they sold me and the Ukrainian girl Ira to one Albanian man named Pasha who owned a night bar in Bogovinje. "Starting from there Maria was rented by an hour; she went

with clients in the hotel "Las Vegas" in Bogovinje. The sex charge for 3 hours was set on 60 euros. There she worked for 8 months. Then her owner Pasha told her she can go to the embassy in Skopje and leave to Moldavia. She was supposed to go to Skopje with Meti, the owner of the nightclub Jaguar in the village Raven. Then she realized she was sold to him, because he told her she has to work to pay up the debt of 2.000 euros that he paid to Jemo.

"I worked for 3 months and I had 2-6 clients in one night. Then many police rations started and that's why we worked in the night bar in the dark. The third month Namik gave me my passport and sold me to Borce. Tricking me into coming with them they told me that in Skopje they will provide me with visa and airplane ticket to Moldavia, but instead they brought me to an apartment in Kapistec, there were 3 other girls there. Borce arranged sex with clients by telephone and the sex-charge was 50 euros for 1 hour. He constantly beat me and kicked me around. I couldn't stand that anymore and I runaway barefoot to the nearest police station in Karpos."

In the Bulgarian city Petric, Borce Mladenovski went searching for new girls. There he connected with the Bulgarian underground and for 800 euros bought 29 year old Juliana Hristova-Atanasova who as the other girls was the crown witness in the court testimony against the 5 pimps in Skopje.

3. Juliana Hristova-Atanasova, 29 years, Bulgarian - "Without knowing I was sold to Borce by my close friends. Near Strumica they illegally transferred me across the state border, and when I came to Macedonia they brought me to an apartment in Skopje. Goran waited for me there and in the apartment in Karpos were already Ljudmila, Olja, Svetlana and Marija. They held us locked and told me that if I try to runaway or call someone on the phone, they will kill me. It was real slavery, for 4.000 denars by hour they were selling me to clients, until the police saved me from one apartment near Nova Zeleznicka."

4. Svetlana Armanu, Moldavian - She came to Macedonia by foot, and hoped that will find a job in a restaurant washing dishes. But she also fell into Borce's trap. She was sent to apartment in Karpos. Because she refused to prostitute herself she was brutally beaten. Olja Vasileva has a similar story as Svetlana, she went to Greece to work on orange plantages and turned out as a victim of sex-trafficking.

"I and Olja couldn't stand the terror of Borce and his friends anymore. One day we decided to runaway from the apartment, so we used the moment when our guard wasn't watching and we jumped from the terrace on the second floor. We were supposed to get away by running but in front of the building Olja couldn't move. I lost my mind; I knew that Goran will come to get us so I took some rocks from the ground and started throwing them on the neighbor's windows. Some of the neighbors got out and when Goran saw what was happening he runaway. We were seriously hurt but the pain wasn't nothing comparing to the happiness that we were saved."

Increasing Number of Bosnian Women Fall Victim to Trafficking

The number of victims of human trafficking on territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been falling over recent years, but the share of female citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina falling victim to this crime is on the rise, Bosnian state co-ordinator of efforts aimed at countering human trafficking said.

Samir Rizvo told a news conference in Sarajevo that last year, 60 persons were registered as victims of trafficking in human beings, and half of them were Bosnian women forced into prostitution. In 2005, there were 66 registered victims of human trafficking, and a third of them were local women and girls.

The fact that scopes of human trafficking in Bosnia have recently been smaller can be ascribed to comprehensive measures taken since the end of the war to combat growing prostitution involving women from east European countries.

The co-ordinator Rizvo believes that this phenomenon has been almost uprooted, but a new problem cropped up with criminals forcing local girls, often under-age girls into prostitution. In 2006, the youngest victim of this kind of crime in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a 13-year-old girl.

Mara Radovanovic, the chairwoman of the Lara nongovernmental organisation, commended the police for their active struggle against human trafficking and forced prostitution. She added that the police were well trained for this job. She, however, criticised the conduct of courts, claiming that decisions of Bosnian judicial authorities only stimulated criminals. Sentences for those found guilty of human trafficking in Bosnia vary in length from prison terms of one year to 15 years. According to Radovanovic, judges more frequently resort to milder sentences. So far only once the sentence of 14 years has been delivered for this crime.

Three UN police officers and four foreigners have been arrested for involvement in human trafficking in the UN administered province of Kosovo together with the local Kosovo Police Service (KPS) on Wednesday arrested an international policeman suspected of human trafficking, the UN said in a statement. Two other local police officers were also arrested on human-trafficking charges in Sunday in northern Kosovo.

In the interest of the ongoing investigation, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has declined to disclose the identities of the officers arrested.

Some 3,753 international police officers from 49 countries are serving in Kosovo, which has been under the administration of UNMIK since the end of 1999 war. The local post-war police force has some 6,000 officers.

CIVPOL is a closely integrated structure of both international civilian police and local KPS officers who work side by side to maintain law and order in Kosovo. Specialized units within UNMIK are responsible for providing protection for vulnerable witnesses and for fighting human trafficking and other forms of organized crime. Kosovo, like other Western Balkans countries, has a serious human-trafficking problem.

The HelpLine, set up by UNMIK's "Victims' Advocacy and Assistance Unit" (VAAU) is intended to ensure access to justice for victims of crime by offering them the opportunity to anonymously receive help from law enforcement authorities. It also intends to facilitate victims' access to medical, legal, and psychological services as well as other forms of support. Since its creation in 2002, the VAAU has assisted over 1,430 victims of crime, mainly victims of domestic violence, sexual offences, and human trafficking.

In the meantime, Amnesty International (AI) says the presence of international peacekeepers in Kosovo has been fuelling the sexual exploitation of women and encouraging trafficking.

The human rights group claims that UN and NATO troops in the region are using the trafficked women and girls for sex, and that some have been involved in trafficking itself. Girls as young as 11 from Eastern European countries are being sold into sex slavery, according to Amnesty International.

The group's 2004 yearly report - based on interviews with women and girls who have been trafficked from countries such as Moldova, Bulgaria, and Ukraine to service Kosovo's sex industry - says that sex victims are moved illegally across borders and sold in "trading houses" where they are sometimes drugged and "broken in" before being sold from one trafficker to another for prices ranging from €50 to €3,500.

The report includes harrowing testimonies of abduction, deprivation, and torture, including beatings and rape.

The report also condemns the role of the international peacekeepers in furthering the problem, saying that the number of places in Kosovo where trafficked women and girls may be exploited, such as nightclubs, bars, restaurants, hotels, and cafes, has increased from 18 at the time of the arrival of the peacekeepers in 1999 to more than 200 in 2003.

According to the report, international personnel make up about 20 per cent of sex trafficking customers, though its members comprise only 2 per cent of Kosovo's population. Other countries in Southeastern Europe have been criticized by international organizations for failing to take effective measures against people trafficking. Western Balkans countries (Albania, Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia) as source or transit countries for trafficking to Western Europe and destination countries for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

A UNICEF report says the main targets are young women and girls between the ages of 15 and 17 who are often sold into sexual slavery, or children under the age of 13, who are trafficked for forced labor or begging.

Many Southeastern European countries have strict laws against human trafficking, but they largely focus on preventing illegal migration or cracking down on prostitution and organized crime and ignore the root causes, says the UNICEF report. What is missing, the organization says, is a strategy focused on educating children about the dangers of human trafficking and raising their awareness.

Another judicial source predicted that if Piperovic admitted a role in the SC case, other public figures would soon be incriminated, as he is alleged to possess evidence of their direct involvement in the sex-trade network. Vijesti has published reports on December 3, claiming that videotapes were found in Orahovac's apartment, which it said showed public figures taking part in orgies. However, police sources have denied any such tapes exist. Law enforcement sources say police documents containing confidential information - so-called "official bulletins" sent only to a small circle of senior officials - were found in Orahovac's apartment, but they refused to comment on media claims that they were addressed to Vukcevic.

If an indictment is issued, the Moldova woman is ready to testify in court, according to the head of the refuge where she is currently recuperating. Ljiljana Raicevic said SC was in a very poor state. She said it was clear she had been beaten and starved and that physical traces of the abuse she endured were still visible on her body. The scandal looks set to spread. What remains unclear, however, is whether the recent arrests signal a new determination on the part of the authorities to crack down on an organized crime network that has incurred strong criticism from the European Union. The concern is that it may be no more than an internal struggle within the government structures.

Montenegro: Sex Trade Scandal Arrest of senior official over alleged involvement in human trafficking sparks claims that other leading figures may be involved in the racket.

A scandal over the alleged involvement of leading judicial figures in the trafficking of prostitutes from Eastern Europe threatens to claim more victims, following the sensational arrest of the deputy state prosecutor, Zoran Piperovic.

Piperovic was arrested on November 30 with Bajram Orahovac, a restaurant owner, on suspicion of involvement in human trafficking after being mentioned by a Moldova woman who had escaped from her captors in Podgorica and gone to the police. The 28-year-old woman, known only as SC, fled from a flat in Podgorica on November 12 and went to the police for help. Montenegro has long been known as a transit point for the profitable business of smuggling women to western countries to work as call girls and prostitutes. The victims mostly come from Russia, Moldova and Ukraine, seduced by the traffickers with bogus promises of work as waitresses, au pairs or babysitters. The mostly Russian and Albanian traffickers pass their human cargo into the hands of their Montenegrin counterparts. By then, the women have handed over their documents to the smugglers, are given no money and effectively have no option but to work for them in the sex trade. Irfan Kurpejovic, who comes from a well-known Podgorica family, and businessman Ekrem Jesavic were detained first on the basis of the Moldovan woman's statement to the police on November 23. According to an IWPR source, SC is claiming that she was "owned" by Kurpejovic who then sold her to Jesavic. The two suspects have denied all charges. A week later, the deputy state prosecutor and Orahovac found themselves behind bars. The joint investigation into all four men began on December 3. Neither the police, the investigative judge, Ana Vukovic, nor the prosecution have publicly explained the four suspects' involvement in the SC case, though the media has not been slow to produce its own versions of events. According to the daily Vijesti, Piperovic's involvement with the Moldova woman began in 1998 when he took her from a pimp in the Bosnian town of Bijeljina, brought her to Montenegro and then "sold" her to the owner of a nightclub in Podgorica called Oskar. It is not clear how Kurpejovic and Jesavic then came into possession of the woman.

The Moldova girl also claimed that she worked in a restaurant owned by Orahovac, who was arrested together with Piperovic. How she came to work in his place is not known. Orahovac's restaurant has gained a seedy reputation as a place where clients can use the services of prostitutes at any time of day or night. Its owner is well connected. Orahovac was frequently seen in the company of judicial and police employees and gave the impression that he was untouchable. His restaurant has no name and has never been registered.

One police source told IWPR, "Several politicians used to go there, and orgies with the girls were organized. The guests were well known, so he [Orahovac] as well as Piperovic had these public figures under their thumbs." Piperovic has strenuously denied all the charges against him, claiming he is the victim of a government set-up. Sources in the judiciary have said he also threatened that "someone would pay dearly" for his arrest. Piperovic is not the only official likely to face charges of involvement in human trafficking. Sources close to the investigation reported that when the Moldova woman gave the investigative judge her account of her experience during her four-year stay in Montenegro, as well as mentioning Piperovic and the other three suspects, she named other figures in the judiciary, police and politics.

The sources said one name she mentioned during her testimony is that of the state prosecutor, Bozidar Vukcevic, claiming he was one of the clients. Vukcevic told IWPR that he was a friend of Orahovac and that he visited his restaurant. "We are friends, I have visited his restaurant. However, I have never seen any prostitutes there and have never gone there with Piperovic," he said. The state prosecutor categorically denied all the media claims against him and rejected any involvement with the woman or with human trafficking. He also rebutted assertions that the police had attempted to arrest him but were stopped by their superiors or others in authority.

In a statement, Vukcevic said he would resign only when it had been proved that his deputy was "legally and criminally responsible for the illegal acts he is being charged with". In spite of his denials, non-governmental organizations, NGO's, and other bodies are demanding his resignation. Group for Changes, an NGO led by Nebojsa Medojevic, comprising many reformist intellectuals, said it was necessary to "immediately dismiss the state prosecutor and secure the conditions for court proceedings to be held without any pressure from outside".

Another judicial source predicted that if Piperovic admitted a role in the SC case, other public figures would soon be incriminated, as he is alleged to possess evidence of their direct involvement in the sex-trade network. Vijesti has published reports on December 3, claiming that videotapes were found in Orahovac's apartment, which it said showed public figures taking part in orgies. However, police sources have denied any such tapes exist. Law enforcement sources say police documents containing confidential information - so-called "official bulletins" sent only to a small circle of senior officials - were found in Orahovac's apartment, but they refused to comment on media claims that they were addressed to Vukcevic.

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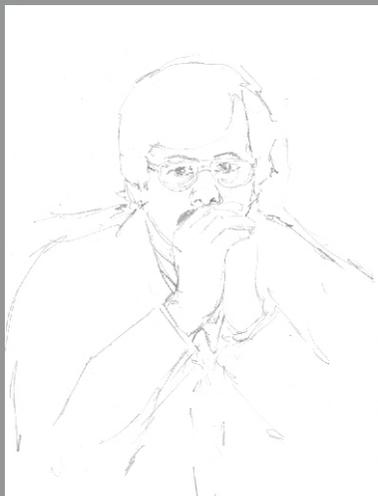
Trafficking 'Potentially' a Huge Problem in Ireland December 17, 2007

The Minister for Justice, Brian Lenihan, has said human trafficking has the potential to become a significant problem in Ireland.

Mr Lenihan was speaking in the Dáil during this morning's debate of the second stage of the Criminal Law Human Trafficking Bill. He said the Government was committed to tackling the crime and recognised the need to draw together the various Government departments in combating it.

His comments came after the arrest of one suspect as part of an investigation into an international child trafficking ring. Dutch police announced last night that 19 arrests of suspected traffickers were made in Holland, Spain, Belgium, Britain, the United States and Ireland. It says Nigerian children, allegedly controlled through voodoo threats, were trafficked into Holland and forced to work as prostitutes in several European countries including France, Italy and Spain. The suspect arrested in Ireland, on a European Arrest Warrant, is Peter Sarfo and he is due back before the High Court next week. It is understood there is no evidence of any children being trafficked into Ireland.

This investigation into the disappearance of Nigerian children in Holland has been ongoing for over a year. It uncovered a child trafficking ring, whereby Nigerian children, mostly girls controlled by voodoo threats, were sent to Amsterdam with fake documents and told to apply for asylum. The young girls were then moved from care centres and forced into prostitution. More than 130 went missing and several victims have been found on the streets of France, Italy and Spain as well as Holland.



Outcry over launch of Dutch pedophile party May 31, 2006

Dutch pedophiles are launching a political party to push for a cut in the legal age for sexual relations to 12 from 16 and the legalisation of child pornography and sex with animals, sparking widespread outrage.

The Charity, Freedom and Diversity (NVD) party said on its web site it would be officially registered today, proclaiming: "We are going to shake The Hague awake!" The party said it wanted to cut the legal age for sexual relations to 12 and eventually scrap the limit altogether.

"A ban just makes children curious," Ad van den Berg, one of the party's founders, told the Algemeen Dagblad newspaper.

"We want to make pedophilia the subject of discussion," he said, adding the subject had been a taboo since the 1996 Marc Dutroux child abuse scandal in neighbouring Belgium.

"We want to get into parliament so we have a voice. Other politicians only talk about us in a negative sense, as if we were criminals," Van den Berg told Reuters. The Netherlands, was shocked by the plan, which already has liberal policies on soft drugs, prostitution and gay marriage. An opinion poll published today showed that 82 per cent wanted the government to do something to stop the new party, while 67 per cent said promoting pedophilia should be illegal.

"They make out as if they want more rights for children. But their position that children should be allowed sexual contact from age 12 is of course just in their own interest," anti-pedophile campaigner Ireen van Engelen told the AD daily. Right-wing lawmaker Geert Wilders said he had asked the government to investigate whether a party with such "sick ideas" could really be established, ANP news agency reported.

Kees van der Staaij, a member of the Christian SGP party, also demanded action: "Pedophilia and child pornography should be taboo in every constitutional state. Breaking that will just create more victims and more serious ones." The party wants private possession of child pornography to be allowed although it supports the ban on the trade of such materials. It also supports allowing pornography to be broadcast on daytime television, with only violent pornography limited to the late evening.

Toddlers should be given sex education and youth aged 16 and up should be allowed to appear in pornographic films and prostitute themselves. Sex with animals should be allowed although abuse of animals should remain illegal, the NVD said. The party also said everybody should be allowed to go naked in public and promotes legalizing all soft and hard drugs and free train travel for all.

Police Uncover Human Trafficking Misery in the UK December 17, 2007

A Romanian woman who was raped and forced to work as a prostitute is among 20 victims of human trafficking identified by police in the central belt in the past eight weeks.

The alarming results from the first few weeks of the UK's biggest-ever operation to tackle human trafficking in the sex industry can be revealed by The Scotsman. Seven women have been identified as trafficking victims in Edinburgh since police began Pentameter 2 in October 2007.

Most of the women are from the Far East - mainly Thailand and Malaysia - with many thought to have travelled to Britain to pay off a family debt, ending up in Edinburgh's sex industry after becoming "debt-bonded" to a relative living in the UK.

In one case, a Romanian woman who arrived in London on the promise of work found herself repeatedly raped by her traffickers, who seized her passport. She was found working in a brothel in Edinburgh. Four raids were carried out on brothels operating out of flats in the city, leading to three arrests. In Strathclyde, 13 suspected trafficked women have been identified following seven raids. Three people have been reported to the procurator-fiscal. Police are now extending Pentameter 2 into the New Year. Detective Chief Inspector David Bullen, who is in charge of Pentameter 2 for Lothian and Borders Police, said: "Like the rest of the UK, we have a human trafficking problem. The problem we are encountering is getting them to speak to us. Many are so mistrustful of the police, and damaged, that they find it extremely hard to open up.

"But they have undoubtedly been trafficked here against their will, often forced into prostitution to pay off family debts." A spokesman for Grampian Police said they were "actively investigating a number of lines of inquiry".

Amnesty International and Lothian and Borders Police have joined forces to mount a campaign raising awareness about the trafficking of human beings. A display describing the lives of those who have been trafficked has been placed at Edinburgh Airport, as transport hubs have been identified as key areas in the human trafficking process.

Amnesty International campaigner Naomi McAuliffe said: "It is vitally important that we raise awareness of this trade, we have come across stories of women being bought and sold in the cafés of airport lounges." It has been estimated that as many as 700 foreign women have been trafficked into Scotland's sex industry.

Anne Hamilton, from Glasgow-based Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance - which will host a conference on the problem - said it was currently supporting 17 trafficking victims in the city. Throughout the UK, the first Pentameter operation resulted in 88 victims of trafficking being rescued from 22 countries. There were a total of 232 arrests, which led to 134 people being charged with a variety of offences.



Georgia is a source and transit country for women and girls trafficked primarily to Turkey and the U.A.E. for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Women and girls from Ukraine, Moldova, Russia, and other former Soviet states are trafficked through Georgia to Turkey, Greece, the U.A.E., and Western Europe. Men are trafficked for the purpose of forced labor; victims are trafficked for the purpose of forced labor in the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Sad Plight of Underage Brides

I do not want to get married. I want to continue my studies and become a doctor," said Sevil Allazkyzy. Small and fragile with a childlike body, Sevil is only 11 years old, and all her grades are excellent. She is the best student in the seventh form of the school in the village of Ferma in the Kaspi District of Georgia. However, the main topic of discussion at home now is the intention to get her married this year. She said that many of the girls in her village have had a couple of children by the time they reach 15. From the streets to the stage, a young woman plots her path in life.

Lika grew up with a mother and six brothers, five of whom left the family home and never looked back. She lived with her mother and youngest brother in a Lotkini district apartment; the family's only income was what they could get begging on Rustaveli Avenue. The fall from poverty to homeless was sudden. When Lika was seven, her small family lost what little they had in a house fire. With nowhere to go, they slept in the streets. Within a year, her mother was able to rent a small room for the three of them. But Lika was accustomed to street life, and left their new home when she was eight. She didn't have a bad relationship with her mother, she said, but felt at home on the street-and craved inhalants. She and her friends would beg for money to buy food and glue. They slept nights under balconies and in cars.



kidney of Nikolai Burdane, a victim of trade,
placed on ice for illegal trafficking



Moldova organ trafficking and sexual
slavery

Moldova is today officially the poorest country in Europe. With nearly total unemployment, the registered daily income of 80% of the population is below a dollar per day. This fact can explain why desperate people sell their organs for money and sex trafficking is rampant. Moldova prostitutes are now the country's main export. Moldova's own statistics show that 10,000+ people leave the country each month never to return. In the past, Moldova was trading with Russia and was valued for their agricultural resources and products.

After independence this situation changed drastically. The population became the poorest in Europe although foreign aid created a new class of prosperous Moldova politicians.

Organ trafficking is so
common that authorities turn a
blind eye to it ... and sometimes
participate in the lucrative trade. In
the south of Moldova, entire
villages exist where
every single inhabitant
has been
"under the knife" as

part of the illegal organ trade. Some die in the process. But in Menzhi, Kagule and Chimishlii, the local leaders defended the trade by saying: Either we sell our organs or we starve. In the rough world of today's Moldova, those are often the only two alternatives left to a people whose kleptocratic elite has all but forgotten the plight of the population in the countryside.

Irina

is a young woman from a small village in northern Moldova who, for four years abroad, was a victim of human trafficking. Her story is all too familiar.

Irina lived in the village with her family and had little hope of finding gainful employment. Like many young women in the poor Eastern European country, she was attracted to the promise of work abroad. She left the village when she was only 19. During the following four years, Irina lived through one of the most horrific experiences imaginable. Encouraged by her boyfriend, Irina registered to work as a waitress in Portugal, which she hoped would be the beginning of a good living. All of her travel

expenses were covered by intermediaries and were to have been subtracted from her future earnings.

But when Irina arrived in Portugal she instead

was forced into prostitution and treated like a slave. She

understood immediately that her survival demanded that she obey rather than protest. And she realized her travel

expense "debt" could never be fully repaid. Ultimately, Irina was **resold** to a trafficker in the United Arab Emirates and forced to work as a prostitute in one of Dubai's major brothels. There her situation was further complicated by

the birth of a child fathered by one of her

repeat clients. She spent most of her time confined to the brothel before a local non governmental organization (NGO) helped her return home with her 1-year-old son.

A new report by an international trade unions' umbrella organization says Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen are notorious destinations for women trafficked from Kenya.

Egypt is a transit country for women and girls trafficked from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union into Israel for forced prostitution. According to various sources, hundreds of women and underage girls, particularly from Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, are deceived or forced to journey through Egypt's Sinai desert into Israel at the hands of tribal smugglers. They are trafficked into forced prostitution in Israel. Undocumented migration into Egypt from sub-Saharan Africa is common.

Iran is a source, transit, and destination country for women and girls trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. Women and girls are trafficked to Pakistan, Turkey, and France for sexual exploitation. Boys from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are trafficked through Iran to the Gulf States where they are forced to work as camel jockeys, beggars, or laborers. Afghan women and girls are trafficked to Iran for sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Internal trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and children for forced labor also takes place. The internal trafficking of women and children is fueled by an increasing number of vulnerable groups, such as runaway women, street children and drug addicts.

Israel is a destination country for women trafficked for prostitution and men and women trafficked for labor exploitation. Women from European and former Soviet Union (FSU) countries are brought into Israel, including through Egypt, by traffickers and sold to brothel operators, after which some are forced to work off their debt through involuntary sexual servitude. Most trafficking victims for sexual exploitation originate from Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine—with the latter three increasingly replacing Moldova as principal source countries. Most foreign laborers in Israel come from Turkey and other countries in South East Asia, East Asia, Africa, South and Central America, the FSU, and Eastern Europe. Some foreign laborers enter into Israel for labor under conditions that constitute trafficking. Some laborers are subjected to debt bondage and restrictions on their movements, including employer confiscation of their passports. Following the adoption of stricter immigration control measures at Ben Gurion Airport, traffickers have begun using Egypt as a transit route, relying on Bedouin smugglers to transport victims across the border between Egypt and Israel.

Kuwait is a destination country for women, men, and children trafficked primarily from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Trafficking victims in Kuwait are primarily foreign women who come to Kuwait as domestic servants but are subsequently abused by their employers or coerced into situations of debt bondage or involuntary servitude. Some domestic servants are trafficked internally for sexual and labor exploitation. Some underage boys from South Asia,

Sudan, Yemen, and Eritrea are trafficked from neighboring Gulf States to work as **camel jockeys**. Victims suffer debt bondage, involuntary sexual servitude, coerced labor, verbal and physical abuse, and the withholding of their passports or other required travel documents.

Lebanon is a destination country for African and Asian women trafficked for involuntary **domestic servitude** and to a lesser extent, Eastern European and Russian women trafficked for the purposes of **sexual exploitation**. Many victims travel to Lebanon voluntarily and legally, but end up in coercive or forced labor conditions, or are subjected to physical and sexual abuse, physical confinement, withholding of wages, and confiscation of their passports.

Morocco is a country of origin, transit, and destination for women, men, and children trafficked from sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab region, and Asia. Young Moroccan victims are lured into Europe by Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, Algerian, and Nigerian traffickers and then forced into drug trafficking, coerced labor, and sexual exploitation. Moroccan women are trafficked to the Gulf region and Syria. Significant internal trafficking also takes place, usually involving child domestics and **underage girls sold into marriage**. An emerging sex tourism industry involving young Moroccans in and around popular tourist destinations of the country has also been reported.

Qatar is a destination country for children who are trafficked from the Sudan, Somalia, and, to a lesser extent, South Asia to serve primarily as camel jockeys. Some women from Asia, Africa, and the former Soviet Union who come to work in Qatar may be placed in situations of **coerced labor** where they endure **physical abuse** or other extreme working conditions. Some of these women are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Child victims endure difficult working and living conditions, characterized by physical violence and inadequate food and medical care. **Camel jockeys' rights are not protected** under Qatari labor laws, as their service is deemed a sports activity rather than a form of labor.

Saudi Arabia is a destination country for men, women, and children **trafficked** from South and East Asia and Eastern Africa for labor exploitation and from South Asia and Africa for forced begging. Victims come primarily from Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh to work as **domestic servants and menial laborers**; a small percentage is forced into situations of coerced labor or slave-like conditions. Despite the fact that it is against Saudi law, some low-skilled foreign workers have their passports withheld, contracts altered, and suffer non-payment of salaries of varying degrees and duration. Some South Asian and African children are trafficked to Saudi Arabia during pilgrimages; they end up in forced begging rings. Over 200 Afghan children were repatriated from Saudi Arabia in early 2004. Nigerian immigration authorities report receiving a number of trafficking victims returned from Saudi Arabia in 2003.

The **United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)** is a destination country for men, women and children **trafficked** primarily from South and East Asia and the former Soviet Union for the purposes of **sexual and labor exploitation**. A significant number of foreign women are lured to the U.A.E. under false pretences and subsequently forced into sexual servitude, primarily by criminals of their own country who take advantage of the U.A.E.'s openness. Far fewer boys are trafficked from South Asian countries to serve as forced camel jockeys due to the U.A.E.'s effective implementation of new measures to curb this form of trafficking.



Desperate Iraqi Refugees Turn to Sex Trade in Syria **MARABA, Syria**

Back home in Iraq, Umm Hiba's daughter was a devout schoolgirl, modest in her dress and serious about her studies. Hiba, who is now 16, wore the hijab, or Islamic head scarf, and rose early each day to say the dawn prayer before classes. But that was before militias began threatening their Baghdad neighborhood and Umm Hiba and her daughter fled to Syria last spring. There were no jobs, and Umm Hiba's elderly father developed complications related to his diabetes.

Desperate, **Umm Hiba** followed the advice of an Iraqi acquaintance and took her daughter to work at a nightclub along a highway

known **for prostitution**. "We Iraqis used to be a proud people," she said over the frantic blare of the club's speakers. She pointed out her daughter, dancing among about two dozen other girls on the stage, wearing a pink silk dress with spaghetti straps, her frail shoulders bathed in colored light.

As Umm Hiba watched, a middle-aged man climbed onto the platform and began to dance jerkily, arms flailing, among the girls. "During the war we lost everything," she said. "We even lost our honor." She insisted on being identified by only part of her name — Umm Hiba means

At **Al Rawabi**, an expensive nightclub in Al Hami, customers can drink imported Scotch, smoke water pipes and watch a show featuring young Iraqi woman gyrating to a 10-piece band on a garishly lighted stage.



Maraba, a suburb of Damascus, has become a hub of prostitution

mother of Hiba.

For anyone living in Damascus these days, the fact that some Iraqi refugees are selling sex or working in sex clubs is difficult to ignore. Even in central Damascus, men freely talk of being approached by pimps trawling for customers outside juice shops and shawarma sandwich stalls, and of women walking up to passing men, an act unthinkable in Arab culture, and asking in Iraqi-accented Arabic if the men would like to “have a cup of tea.”

By day the road that leads from Damascus to the historic convent at Saidnaya is often

choked with Christian and Muslim pilgrims hoping for one of the miracles attributed to a portrait of the Virgin Mary at the convent. But as any Damascene taxi driver can tell you, the Maraba section of this fabled pilgrim road is fast becoming better known for its brisk trade in Iraqi prostitutes. Many of these women and girls, including some barely in their teens, are recent refugees. Some are tricked or forced into prostitution, but most say they have no other means of supporting their families. As a group they represent one of the most visible symptoms of an Iraqi refugee crisis that has exploded in Syria in recent months.

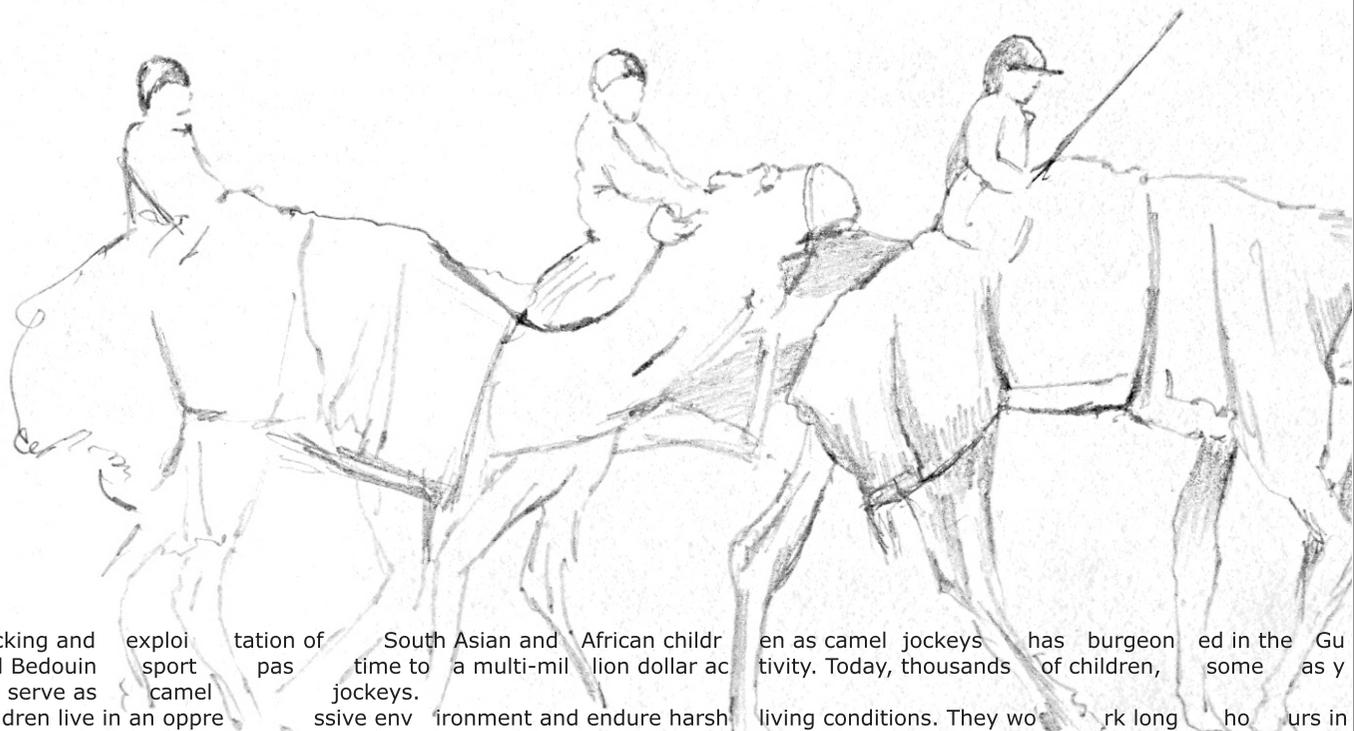
According to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, about 1.2 million Iraqi refugees now live in Syria; the Syrian government puts the figure even higher. Given the deteriorating economic situation of those refugees, a United Nations report found last year, many girls and women in “severe need” turn to prostitution, in secret or even with the knowledge or involvement of family members. In many cases, the report added, “the head of the family brings clients to the house.”

Aid workers say thousands of Iraqi women work as prostitutes in Syria, and point out that as violence in Iraq has increased, the refugee population has come to include more female-headed households and unaccompanied women.

“So many of the Iraqi women arriving now are living on their own with their children because the men in their families were killed or kidnapped,” said Sister Marie-Claude Naddaf, a Syrian nun at the Good Shepherd convent in Damascus, which helps Iraqi refugees. She said the convent had surveyed Iraqi refugees living in Masaken Barzeh, on the outskirts of Damascus, and found 119 female-headed households in one small neighborhood. Some of the women, seeking work outside the home for the first time and living in a country with high unemployment, find that their only marketable asset is their bodies.

“I met three sisters-in-law recently who were living together and all prostituting themselves,” Sister Marie-Claude said. “They would go out on alternate nights — each woman took her turn — and then divide the money to feed all the children.”

For more than three years after the American-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Iraqi prostitution in Syria, like any prostitution, was a forbidden topic for Syria's government. Like drug abuse, the sex trade tends to be referred to in the local news media as acts against public decency. But Dietrun Günther, an official at the United Nations refugee agency's Damascus office, said the government was finally breaking its silence.



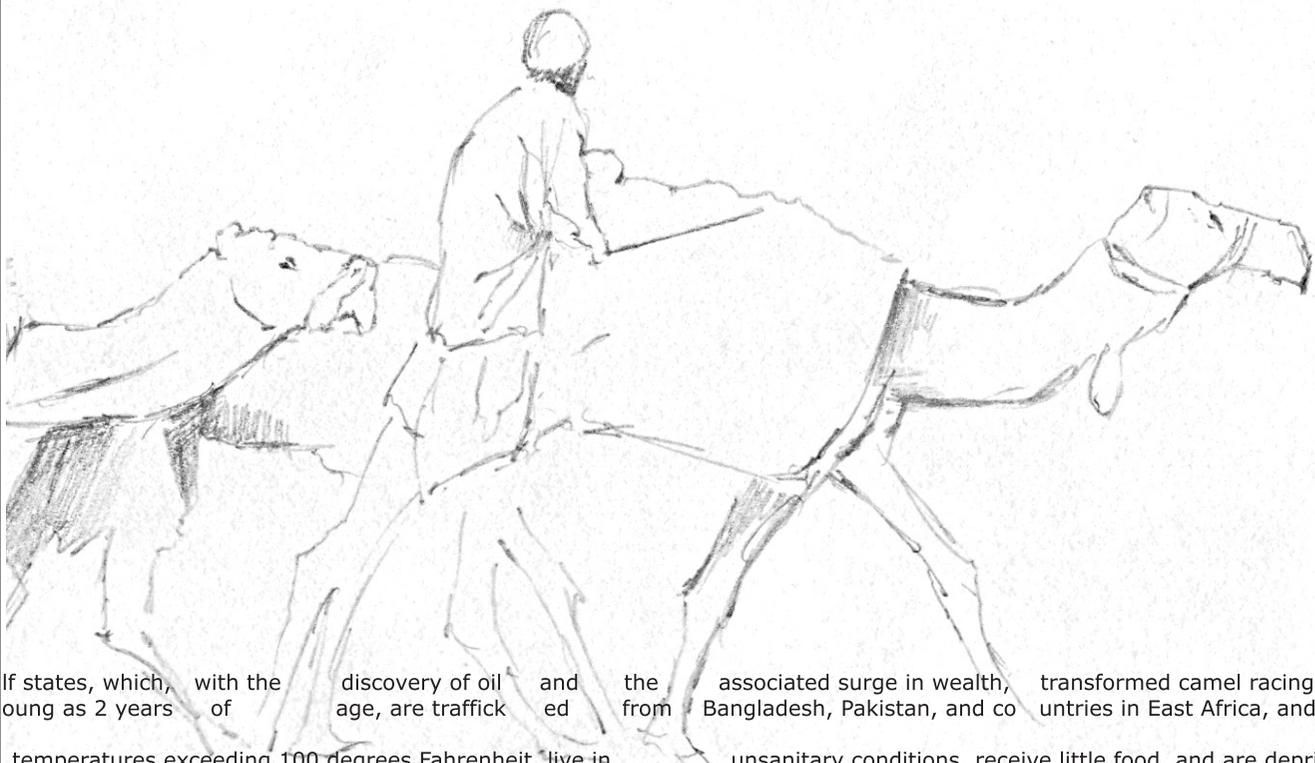
The trafficking and exploitation of South Asian and African children as camel jockeys has burgeoned in the Gulf region, a traditional Bedouin sport has become a multi-million dollar activity. Today, thousands of children, some as young as 5, are used as camel jockeys.

These children live in an oppressive environment and endure harsh living conditions. They work long hours in that they do not gain weight and increase the load on the camels they race. They are trained and kept under the watchful eyes of handlers who are often seriously injured and some have been trampled to death by the camels. Those who survive the harsh conditions are disposed of once they reach adulthood, these children face dim prospects. They often end up leading destitute lives. Trafficked child camel jockeys are rarely rehabilitated, and repatriated approximately 1,034 children who had worked as camel jockeys. As many as 5,000 children, some as young as 5, are used to gain the edge over their racing rivals.

When Ibrahim Mohammad, now around 6 years old, fell off a camel in Dubai and fractured his shoulder last year, he says he broke into snivelling, whining or weeping could save him from the camel-racing track. There was a lot of money at stake, there were no adults watching. In the Emirates' glitzy port city, Ibrahim was just a tiny cog in a vast, popular sports industry, and like the other 20-odd boys in his dormitory, for the tiny lads.

All 10-year-old Mohammed Zubair Arrian remembers of his abduction last year is meeting a mysterious red-bearded man in his village who was now a camel racer at which point he fled the airport. Police believe Mohammed was drugged and smuggled into Abu Dhabi on a plane. The boy said he met the red-bearded man in Medina Syedan, his village in Punjab province. He remembered losing consciousness, but 'When I opened my eyes, I was in a totally different world,' Mohamed said. The abductor 'threatened to kill me if I made any noise. But a passer-by found him crying on the streets of Abu Dhabi on 6 September, and turned him over to police. He was eventually brought back to the U.A.E. In November U.A.E. police rescued two other Pakistani brothers aged six and four who had been kidnapped to work as jockeys.

They had raided a camel farm in the oasis town of Al Ain on a tip from the Pakistani embassy and rescued the two boys. The six-year-old



of states, which, with the discovery of oil and the associated surge in wealth, transformed camel racing from a young as 2 years of age, are trafficked from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and countries in East Africa, and sold into

temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit, live in unsanitary conditions, receive little food, and are deprived of sleep so owners, who employ abusive control tactics, including threats and beatings. Some are reportedly abused sexually. Many have been they reach their teenage years. Having gained no productive skills or education, scarred with physical and psychological trauma that can f their childhood sand of their future. The government also worked with UNICEF, source country embassies, and NGO's to rescue, g as two, have been kidnapped or bought from their parents in the Indian sub-continent and Africa as part of a quest by camel trainers

a sobbing fit and pleaded with his handlers not to strap him onto the back of a camel ever again. But as he well knew, no amount of o would intercede for him, and the skinny little Bangladeshi boy was just pushing his luck. As a camel jockey in the United Arab he was a child slave. Protests were treated with a sound whipping with the sticks used for the camels, and then it was back to the races

in Pakistan, and then waking up from a drug-induced stupor in an airport thousands of miles away. The red-bearded man told him he kistan International Airlines flight on a forged travel document.

nothing more until he awoke at Abu Dhabi airport.

t as soon as he turned his back, I ran for my life.'

ack to Pakistan when Burney heard about his case.

Id, Shajar, was being treated in hospital for leg injuries.

Children

are still being used as camel jockeys in many parts of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and UAE; despite ban.



Children are sold for up to US \$3,000 (£2,100) each.





Street Children in Egypt
Sunday, February 10th, 2008

"Street children...are prey to anything and they know things children should not." - Nevine is 18, has lived on Cairo's streets for 4 years (Still dreaming of a better future : a Cairo street girl recounts her traumatic experiences).

The issue of street children is nothing new on the international children's right radar, however in Egypt the issue has only become more substantial in recent years. There is estimated to be some one million street children in Egypt, many of whom have left rural areas to look for work in the city, or who are looking to escape abusive homes. Once on the street, children find themselves working shining shoes, collecting rubbish, begging, cleaning and directing cars into parking spaces, and selling food and trinkets, in order to survive. Children living on the streets are more prone to violence, more susceptible to disease and malnutrition, and are prime victims for traffickers and pedophiles.

Honor Killings Egypt-Marzouk Ahmed Abdel-Rahim killed his daughter, chopped off her head and carried it through the neighborhood to punish her and regain his family honor after she eloped. Daughters are seen as money-earners because in traditional Islamic marriages, a groom gives his in-laws a dowry, the amount depending on their social status. Marriage is viewed as a business transaction, and the goods are the women - to be bought and sold by the father. A daughter who eloped deprives her family of dowry income.

Oman is a destination and transit country for **men and women** primarily from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Indonesia, most of who migrate willingly as low-skilled workers or domestic servants. Some of them subsequently **face** conditions of **involuntary servitude**, such as withholding of passports and other restrictions on movement, non-payment of wages, long working hours without food or rest, threats, and **physical or sexual abuse**. Oman may also be a destination country for women from People's Republic of China, the Philippines, Morocco, and Eastern Europe for commercial sexual exploitation.

Slavery of Children and women in Persian Gulf countries - Exact number of victims is impossible to obtain, but according to an official source in U.A.E., there has been



increase in the number of **teen-age girls in prostitution** (forced to work from Iran and other countries). The magnitude of the statistic conveys how rapidly this form of abuse has grown. The popular destinations for victims of the sex slave trade are the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf (U.A.E., Kuwait, Oman and Qatar). Traffickers target girls between 13 and 17 to send to Arab countries. The number of Iranian women and girls who are deported from Persian Gulf countries indicates the Magnitude of the trade.

Bahrain is a destination country for women and men trafficked from South Asia and the Philippines and—to a lesser extent—China, Indonesia, the former Soviet Union, Morocco, and Ethiopia. **Victims endure** coerced labor, **debt bondage, involuntary sexual servitude**, and restrictions on their freedom of movement, and verbal and physical abuse. The Government of Bahrain does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. It has developed a national plan of action and created an inter-ministerial task force to coordinate Bahrain's anti-trafficking efforts. **Domestic**



workers are not covered under Bahrain's labor laws, although they can seek redress through the courts and government mediation services. The court process is very lengthy and mediation are not well publicized for victims to benefit from them. Bahrain should develop a comprehensive anti-trafficking law and bring domestic workers under the protection of its labor laws. It should also encourage and foster the participation of civil society in the fight against trafficking. As an interim measure, it should take steps to expedite the hearing of labor disputes in its courts and make mediation services widely available to potential victims.

Mina was a single **mother of two** from Tajikistan struggling to survive. A friend in Tashkent told her that there was good work in Dubai. The friend made the travel arrangements, and Mina was trafficked to Dubai where she by chance encountered several countrymen who told her that she would be forced into prostitution. With the assistance of those Tajik traders, Mina was able to escape and return home.



Gulf region's newest pipeline: human trafficking, Kuwait city

– When **Judy** left her home on the southern coast of the Philippines this spring, it was her first trip abroad and her first time on an airplane. She was excited, nervous, and sad all at once.

Like many young Philippine women before her, awaiting her in Kuwait was the promise of a good job and enough money to support her family and save for school. She was to become a nanny and tutor to a young boy. But on her first day working for the Kuwaiti family for whom she had been hired by a recruiting office in Mindanao, Philippines, her excitement quickly turned to fear.

Her new 'Mama' - what Asian maids in the Gulf call their female sponsors - told her, "I don't like you, you are ugly," says Judy, who didn't give her last name, in an interview at the Philippine labor attache's office in Kuwait. "I didn't understand what was going on. I just wanted to cry."

Work began at 5 a.m. and ended at midnight.

"I washed clothes, cleaned the floors, scrubbed toilets and sinks and bathrooms. And just kept doing that over and over again," she says. "All this

and **no food, no rest.**" One day she waited until her sponsor was

out, then **packed a bag, and escaped** to the Philippine Embassy joining hundreds of other Philippine women who have run away from their Kuwaiti employers to seek sanctuary at the Overseas' Workers' Administration the embassy. Unable to leave until her sponsor pays her back wages because she cannot afford to buy a plane ticket home, Judy and the other women spend their days sitting in the embassy, unable to get another job and unable to go home.

Thousands of men, women, and children, most of them from Asia, will be trafficked to the Gulf this year to live as

what the US State Department calls "**modern day slaves**." Most won't know until they get here what lies in store for them and hundreds will, like Judy, flee their employers, suffer physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse, and go home empty-handed.

The trafficking trap

In June the US State Department listed Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) among 14 countries that do little or nothing to stop human trafficking. Washington lowered all four to its Tier 3 category, which could eventually lead to economic sanctions if these countries do not act to stem the flow of trafficking across their borders.

There are no raw numbers on how many of these trafficked persons - who can end up being maids, factory workers, camel jockeys, or prostitutes - come to the Middle East. But the Gulf boasts one of the highest populations of expatriate labor forces in the world, with more than 10 million. In Kuwait, there is an average of one maid for every two Kuwaitis and in the UAE, 1.6 million people, or 80 percent of the total population, are expatriate workers.

The thousands of Bangladeshi, Filipino, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, and other Asian women and men who seek sanctuary at their embassies across the region each week see little improvement in their conditions.

Earlier this year a Kuwaiti sponsor brought more than 1,000 Pakistani laborers under false pretenses. According to the Pakistani Embassy in Kuwait, the men paid the recruiter several thousand rupees only to arrive in Kuwait and find no place to live, no job, no work or residence visas, and no chance of earning back the money they spent to get here.

Recruiting scams are all too common. Trafficking victims say nationals from their home countries, as well as embassy officials and local citizens; often conspire to "recruit" hundreds of laborers, in exchange for a fee. Too often, such recruits find themselves homeless, jobless, and seeking sanctuary in their embassies or being arrested and deported.

Large numbers of **children** are being trafficked in West and Central Africa, mainly for **domestic work** but also for **sexual exploitation** and to **work in shops or on farms**. Nearly **90 per cent** of these trafficked domestic workers are **girls**. Children from Togo, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana are trafficked to Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Gabon. Children are trafficked both in and out of Benin and Nigeria. Some **children** are sent as far away as the Middle East and **Europe**.

The new IOM research, the first to comprehensively address the trafficking of men in Africa in general, and in Eastern and Southern Africa in particular, will establish the extent to which human trafficking is occurring between the East and Horn of Africa to the continent's main economic hub, South Africa; information on how the men are trafficked and what their and their traffickers' profiles are; what kind of abuses they suffer and what the specific characteristics and vulnerabilities of source communities are.

The study, funded by the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) and which kicks off in January 2008, will focus on significant male migration flows between these regions. According to early reports from Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities, much of this movement may be irregular and facilitated by agents operating illicitly across several land borders.

A 2003 IOM report found **links between the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation and the smuggling of men in Southern Africa**, with both activities facilitated by the **same criminal networks** along common migration corridors.

Little, however, is known about male trafficking in Southern Africa and, to the extent it exists, the exploitative purposes for which its victims are trafficked.

The research will cover key transit points along the routes that include Mozambique and Tanzania as well as destination and exploitation sites. Qualitative information identifying cases of male human trafficking will also be gathered.

IOM in **Ethiopia**, for example, is increasingly aware of stories of **men who are**

promised lucrative contracts in the construction industry in South Africa as the country prepares for the football World Cup in 2010.

In Tanzania, IOM has indentified individual cases where men have been trafficked from the East African country to South Africa and forced into criminal activity.

In Kenya, a 2006 report by The CRADLE-Children's Foundation on human trafficking found that 43 per cent of the trafficking victims it interviewed for the report were men.

South Africa, meanwhile, has a lengthy history as a destination for economic migrants. The Department of Home Affairs estimated in 2006 that there were more than seven million undocumented migrants in South Africa. Preparations for the 2010 World Cup have contributed to an even greater migration pull into the country. The project, which will also update IOM data on human smuggling and trafficking between these two regions, is expected to culminate in September 2008 with the publication of a report.

Sex slavery is a problem in some parts of Africa. The colonial powers abolished slavery in the 19th century, but in areas outside their jurisdiction, such as the Mahdist Empire in Sudan, the practice continued to thrive.

Now, institutional slavery has been banned worldwide, but there are numerous reports of women sex slaves in areas without an effective government control, such as until recently, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, northern Uganda, Congo, Niger and Mauritania.

In Ghana, Togo, and Benin, a form of religious prostitution known as trokosi ("ritual servitude") forcibly keeps thousands of girls and women in traditional shrines as "wives of the gods", where priests perform the sexual function in place of the gods.



A trafficked

Ghanaian child

, one of thousands forced to work seven days a week , fishes in Lake Volta, Ghana. Rural children are

often **sold by** their **parents** in exchange **for money** , an

agreement that is generally brokered by the fishing by fishing recruiters.

One hundred forty boys hope to be liberated from indentured servitude in Ghana in July.

The International Organization for Migration in partnership with local non governmental organizations has been working for months to free these boys from forced and gruelling labor serving "slave masters" on board fishing vessels plying the waters of Lake Volta.

This will be the first round of releases in an ongoing project that aims to liberate more than 1,200 boys from harsh conditions in which they receive poor nutrition, no education, and no family nurturing.

The release of the fishing boys will be a victory in counter-trafficking efforts, but a small one. There are perhaps thousands more fishing boys who remain in indentured servitude.

Throughout West Africa, an estimated 200,000 children are trafficked each year, according to UNICEF. When we first went into these villages to locate the boys and see what we might do about releasing them, I found out that the fishermen - the slave masters - didn't think it was wrong at all to be using child labor on their boats.

The way they saw it, the parent needs money. The fisherman needs somebody to work for him, and the child will do the work

The fisherman doesn't think he's doing anything wrong. In fact, he thinks he's helping to reduce poverty.

So if you tell him that it's wrong, really, he doesn't see it. You have to point out to him that he is using somebody else's child to help take care of his own child who is not engaged in fishing.

I tell them: "You send your children to school in the cities in order that they will have a better life in the future, but you send somebody else's children to the lake in the cold of the night and the chill of dawn to fish for you so that you will make money to sustain the education of your children in the cities.

Does it not strike you that you are being unjust and cruel to the children that do the fishing for you? Do you not see that you are spoiling the future of the fishing boys for the benefit of your own children? Think about it."

Only then did these fishermen begin to realize that, yes, something in their practices is not proper. It is then that it strikes them there is something basically wrong with that kind of practice.



Slavery and the Chocolate in Cote d'Ivoire

Young boys whose ages range from **12 to 16** have been

sold into slave labor and are forced to work in cocoa farms in order to harvest the beans, from which chocolate is made, under inhumane conditions and extreme abuse. This West African country is the leading exporter of cocoa beans to the world market. Thus, the existence of slave labor is relevant to the entire international economic community. Through trade relations, many actors are

inevitably implicated in this problem, whether it is the Ivorian government, the farmers, the American or

European chocolate manufacturers, or **consumers** who unknowingly buy chocolate.

Discussions have arisen regarding how to respond to the problem. Issues mentioned include causes of slave labor relating to the economic system and to the country's dependence on an unstable export crop.

There are also **debates** concerning the appropriate response from the chocolate industry, government officials, and consumers concerning whether there should be boycotting, establishment of

government legislation to put **"Made by slaves"** labels on

products, or whether some type of international cooperation is needed to ensure improved working conditions. The complexity of the problem makes finding an effective solution a challenging task.

Slavery and the Link to Chocolate - Slave traders are trafficking boys ranging from the age of 12 to 16 from their home countries and are selling them to cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire. They work on small farms across the country, harvesting the cocoa beans day and night, under inhumane conditions. Most of the boys come from neighboring Mali, where agents hang around bus stations looking for children that are alone or are begging for food. They lure the kids to travel to Cote d'Ivoire with them, and then the traffickers sell the children to farmers in need of cheap labor.

The horrendous conditions under which children must toil on the cocoa farms of the Cote d'Ivoire are even more jarring when the facts are juxtaposed with the idea that much of this cocoa will ultimately end up producing something that most people associate with happiness and pleasure: chocolate. The connection serves to illustrate that the existence of misery in one part of the world and joy in another part are no longer divorced as nations are connected together in a globalized web of trade. Thus, the pleasure that people from various nations around the world are deriving from these chocolate confections could possibly be at the expense of child slaves in Africa. The problem of child slavery then is not simply a faraway abstraction with no immediate implications for anybody else except those who are directly affected, but rather it is an issue that everybody around the world should be concerned about and demand action to eradicate. There are about 600,000 cocoa farms in Cote d'Ivoire. Estimates of the number of children forced to work as slaves on these farms are as high as

15,000. In addition to the very illegality of trafficking and hiring **children workers**, the implicated cocoa farmers subject the children to inhuman living conditions. Besides neither overworking them, the farmers do not pay the children nor feed them properly—often times they are allowed to eat corn paste as their only meal. The denigration also includes locking the children up at night to prevent escape.

The Republic of **Liberia** is located on the west coast of Africa. It fronts on the Atlantic Ocean for 350 mi on the southwest and is bordered by Sierra Leone, by Guinea, and by Côte d'Ivoire. Monrovia is the capital and largest city. Years of conflict have led to the multiple, internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, disrupted delivery of basic social services, and increased vulnerability of women and children to extreme poverty, hunger, disease and HIV/AIDS. Liberia is a source, transit, and destination country for children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Most victims are trafficked within the country from rural areas to urban areas for domestic servitude or other forms of child labor. Displaced children in Liberia were subjected to sexual exploitation by members of international organizations, NGO personnel, and Liberian citizens. There have been reports of children trafficked to Liberia from Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire and from Liberia to The Gambia, Guinea, and Nigeria for domestic servitude, street vending, sexual exploitation, and agricultural labor. Awareness of trafficking in Liberia is nascent and no concrete data exists. While there have been reports of orphanages and adoption agencies involved in child trafficking, most appear to be cases of fraudulent adoption rather than trafficking.



Somalia is a source country for trafficking victims, primarily women and children trafficked internally for forced labor by local militias. An increasing number of Somali children are smuggled to Europe by international criminal rings, many of which are trafficked into situations of forced labor and prostitution. Family members, smugglers, and traffickers use deception, pressure, and force to make Somali children accept false identities, use fraudulent documents, and exploit the social security systems in destination countries. In Somalia, some children as young as 11 years old are forcibly conscripted into militias to serve as combatants and servants. An international organization's pilot demobilization project is underway in Mogadishu for 120 children, including 20 girls. A small number of women may be trafficked to the Middle East for commercial sexual exploitation.

Niger, one of the poorest countries in Africa, provides a typical example of child exploitation. Uranium, gold, phosphates, tin, coal, limestone, salt and gypsum mining are prominent in Niger. In Madaoua, a major gypsum mining town in Niger, 43 percent of the mining workers are children. Of these 6.5 percent are 6 to 9 years of age and 16 percent are of 10 to 13 years of age. These children are exposed to innumerable safety hazards. During extractions they are at risk of injury from their tools and from exhaustion as they have to cover a huge area in search for gypsum. Other risks are snake and scorpion bites and foot injuries, as most of them are barefoot, from stones and wood splinters.



Liptako is a major gold mining area in Niger. Gold ores are obtained in difficult and dangerous conditions, as the method of work is primitive without any source of mechanical or electrical or any other power. Children are fully involved in most of the activities in gold production. 17 percent of the workers are children. They are also involved in related activities like transport, drug selling and prostitution. In the extraction phase, children are used as carriers of ores and waste products to the surface.

The child laborers manually carry sacks that weigh 5-10 kg. In addition to the danger of falling rocks, the children can also fall down mine shafts. They are exposed to risks such as explosions, asphyxiation and dust, demantoid, flooding and drowning in the mines. They also face very high or very low temperatures, dangerous air and space, bilharzias is due to polluted water where they wash gold ores and dangerous materials used in mining and processing. The nearest medical facilities are 60 km away.



Nigerian ladies rescued from prostitution syndicate's den in Burkina Faso

The war against trafficking in persons recorded a breakthrough recently as nine girls, who were billed to travel to Europe for prostitution are now in the custody of Nigeria Immigration Service at Zone 'A' headquarters, Alagbon, Lagos. Among the victims were two cousins, Rita and Lovina from Edo State. They were abandoned in the desert by a suspected trafficker, whose name was simply given as Tony, for failing to heed his advice to engage in the inglorious trade. Tony was said to have promised to take Rita and Lovina to Germany, to meet their elder sister who resides in that country, but the journey ended up in Burkina Faso where he told them they were brought to the country for prostitution. Lovina said: "When we got to Burkina Faso, he dropped us and we asked him where our sister was, but he told us that we couldn't see our sister now. "We told him to take us back home, but he refused. He asked us to start prostitution

but we refused. He later took us to the desert and abandoned us there."

The victims were wandering in the desert when a German rescued them and handed them over to the Nigerian Embassy official in Burkina Faso, who brought them to the Seme control post of the Nigeria Immigration Service on January 20.

Other victims are Ruth Obuseh, (20) Onome (15) Success (22), Christiana (18), Etsere (18), Maurine (25) and Ngozi (26).

Giving insight into how the Nigeria Immigration Service botched the plans of other human traffickers, the Assistant Comptroller General (ACG) in Charge of Zone 'A', Lagos, Mr. Samuel Eluwa, said: "Six victims were arrested in company with an Edo-born driver, Mr. Peter Emeter, at a nearby church along Seme border, by Immigration officers, following a tip-off from one of the villagers. Ruth, Onome, Success, Christiana, Etsere and Maurine who hail from Delta State, according to Eluwa, were promised job opportunities in Cotonou by one Sunday who is now at large.

The trafficker, who procured passports for the victims, paid for their fares to Cotonou hoping to join them later. The driver, Peter Emeter, who operates at the Mile 2 park, had already arrived safely at an agreed point and was waiting to hand over the victims before the bubble bursts.

The ACG explained that the driver had confirmed knowing the traffickers.

Eluwa disclosed that another victim, Ngozi, who held a Nigerian standard passport number A306218 was repatriated from Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam on January 24, for not being in possession of valid travel documents.

Though, Ngozi had a certificate of indigent ship of Abia State, she hails from Benin City, Edo State.

It was also discovered that she came to Lagos in October 2005 and stayed in a hotel with one Mr. James, the human trafficker, for three months, as he arranged and facilitated her journey to Holland.

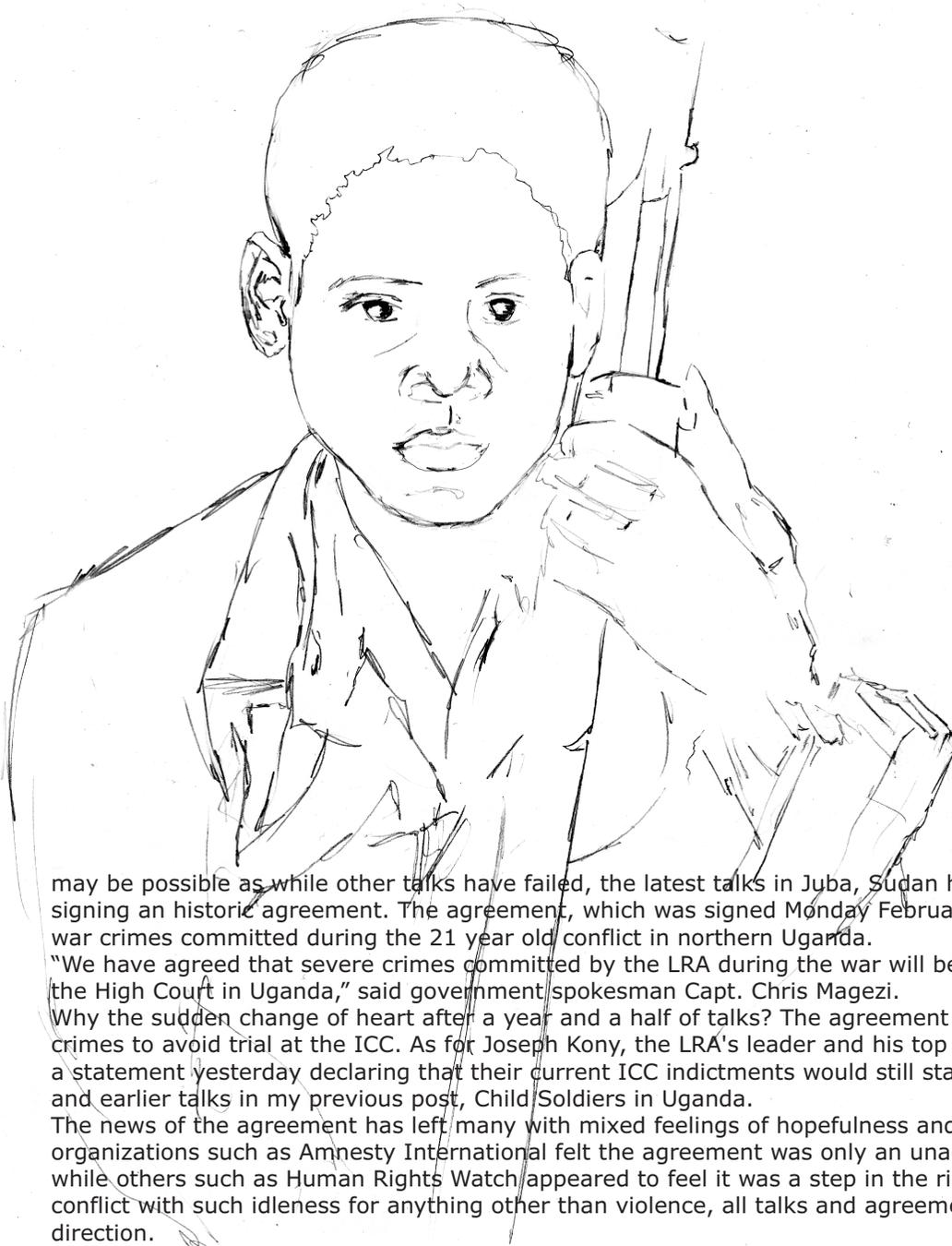
Ngozi claimed that James saw her off to the boarding gate of the aircraft, and collected the passport only to leave her with a duplicate copy and certificate of indigent ship of Abia State.

"In view of this, the plight and harrowing experience of these victims need to be extensively highlighted by the media to enable the Nigeria public to be fully aware of the dangers of trafficking in persons," Eluwa said.

He added that the Comptroller General of Nigeria Immigration Service, Mr. Chukwura Udeh was committed to making all entry/exit points (air, land and sea) unattractive to human traffickers and their victims.

According to him, adequate surveillance activities have been put in place to identify travellers without genuine intentions and travel documents. He said: "Appropriate measures as prescribed by the country's immigration laws and regulation would be fully enforced."

Meanwhile, all the victims have been handed over to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking In Persons and other Related Matter (NAPTIP).



Uganda is Africa's oldest conflict since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has wreaked havoc on the people of northern Uganda, and those bearing the brunt of this violence are children. Some 30,000 children have been abducted from their families and used as soldiers or sex slaves, while 12,000 civilians have been killed and 2 million displaced. Girls are often forced to be the 'wives' of their commanding officers, only to bare a new generation of child soldiers and sex slaves.

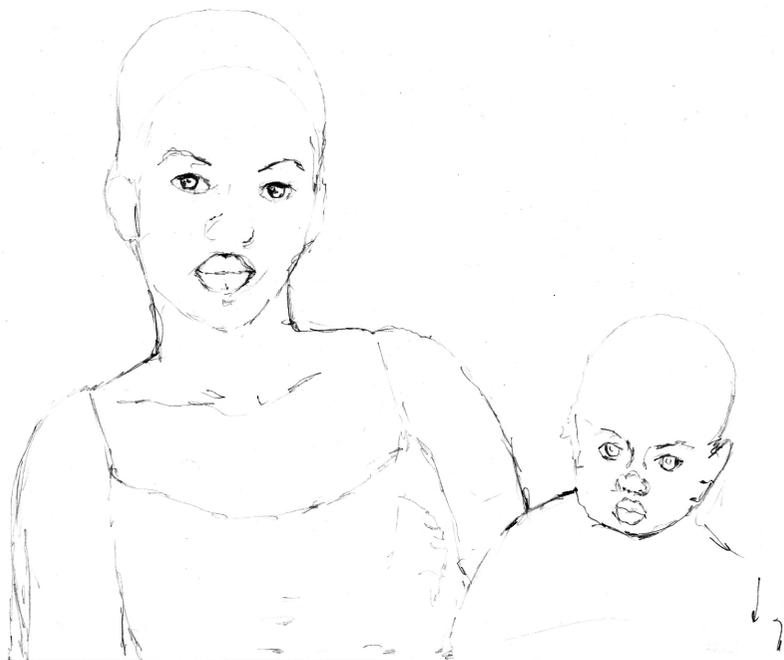
The government thus far has been unable to do much to subdue the LRA, which often uses neighboring Sudan for the launch of their attacks. However progress

may be possible as while other talks have failed, the latest talks in Juba, Sudan have now ended with the LRA signing an historic agreement. The agreement, which was signed Monday February 18, 2008, on how to deal with war crimes committed during the 21 year old conflict in northern Uganda.

"We have agreed that severe crimes committed by the LRA during the war will be tried under a special division of the High Court in Uganda," said government spokesman Capt. Chris Magezi.

Why the sudden change of heart after a year and a half of talks? The agreement will allow the LRA's 'serious' crimes to avoid trial at the ICC. As for Joseph Kony, the LRA's leader and his top two commanders, the ICC issued a statement yesterday declaring that their current ICC indictments would still stand. See more on the situation and earlier talks in my previous post, Child Soldiers in Uganda.

The news of the agreement has left many with mixed feelings of hopefulness and scepticism. Human rights organizations such as Amnesty International felt the agreement was only an unacceptable way around the law, while others such as Human Rights Watch appeared to feel it was a step in the right direction. Regardless in a conflict with such idleness for anything other than violence, all talks and agreements are a step in the right direction.



Adjaratou, was around 12 when her parents forced her to marry her maternal cousin, where she suffered countless abuses. When she refused her husband's demands to do such things as cover her head, she was beaten, and therefore suffered two miscarriages.

Adjaratou, is just one of the millions of girls and women in the western African nation of Mali, who was forced to marry as a child. Child marriage brings with it many associated children's rights abuses and health issues, such as Female Genital Mutilation (which in Mali is as high as 90%), early childbirth (one in ten give birth by the age of 15), an increased risk for HIV/AIDS, poor to no education, and sexual and physical abuse. Child marriages also result in larger age differentials, as according to the Population Council the average age difference in Mali is 12.7 years, and 15.1 years for polygamous marriages.



Child Marriage

Tuesday, August 7th, 2007
Uness Nyambi, of Malawi, "said she was betrothed as a child so her parents could finance her brother's choice of a bride. Now about 17, she has two children, the oldest nearly 5, and a husband who guesses he is 70. 'Just because of these two children, I can not leave him,' she said."

The **Asian** and Pacific regions harbor the largest number of **child workers** in the **5-14 age group, 127.3 million in total**. (19 per cent of children work in the region.)

The economics of Central Asian cotton are simple and exploitative. **Millions** of the rural poor people **work for little or no reward** growing and harvesting the crop. Forced and child labor and other abuses are common. **Schoolchildren** are still regularly required to spend up to two months in the cotton fields in Uzbekistan. Despite official denials, child labor is still in use in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Students in all three countries must miss their classes to pick cotton. Little attention is paid to the conditions in which children and students work. **Every year some fall ill or die**. Women do much of the hard manual labor in cotton fields, and reap almost none of the benefits. Cash wages are minimal and often paid late or not at all.

According to the IOM, **Central Asia** is a growing region of origin for human **trafficking**. "There is trafficking of women, mainly **to the Gulf states**, but also to South Korea, Turkey, Greece, **Western Europe**, and **Southeast Asia**, like Thailand, Malaysia. The main country of origin is Uzbekistan, at this stage. This is normal, as it has the largest population, followed by Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and then less so as a country of origin, Kazakhstan," Katerina Badikova, IOM trafficking officer in Almaty, told IRIN. But estimating numbers of those trafficked out of Central Asia is extremely difficult and no reliable statistics exist. Some observers say up to **10,000 people**, mainly young women for the sex trade, are taken from the region against their will or under false pretences every year. Research on human trafficking is also thin on the ground, making assessments of the extent of the problem difficult. "We conducted some research in the year 2000 in [the Kyrgyz capital] Bishkek, which concluded that some

4,000 women a year were trafficked from the Kyrgyz Republic.

But this might include some women with a varying degree of consent. It might include some women who are working in the sex industry, but not as trafficking victims," Michael Tschanz, the IOM chief of mission in Almaty, told IRIN.

"In terms of concrete facts, we have a network of hotlines all over the country, where people can call in each administrative region, operated by NGOs. That's part of our project. Through this hotline, we have heard about 50 to 100 concrete cases. Maybe we are getting to learn about five to 10 percent of the cases. Then you arrive at the figure of 1,000 [for Kazakhstan]," he said.

Until recently, both governments and society in general in Central Asia have preferred to ignore the issue. In the region's predominantly Muslim societies, it is virtually taboo to openly discuss the trafficking of women for prostitution. Victims often do not report their experiences to the police for fear that their conservative communities will reject them.

A United Nations official has described the trafficking of women and children across Asia as

"the largest slave trade in history".

The transfers are made using "even more cruel and devious means than the original slave trade," Unicef's Kul

Gautum told an International Symposium on Trafficking of Children, being held in Tokyo. He said in Asia and the Pacific alone, more than **30 million children** have been traded over the last three decades.

A combination of **poverty, globalization, organized crime and discrimination against women** encouraged the trade. The victims are usually **teenage girls** who **end up working in sweat shops or brothels**, he said.

But ending the trade in humans is virtually impossible given the level of corruption among government officials,

Mr Gautum said. "In some countries, **police**, who are supposed to **stop** these **crimes, are involved in crimes** by offering protection to criminals. **Pimps and middlemen get protection from the police.**"

Mr Gautum said officials needed to be trained and made more accountable.

Japanese parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs Shinako Tsuchiya urged more co-operation between non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working in the field.

"There are many NGO's in the nations that ship our children, in places that are used as transfer points... but the truth is these NGO's efforts lack co-ordination."

Educating women and children who run a high risk of being trafficked was also cited as crucial in preventing the trade. In Bangladesh, Unicef is training 600,000 people to teach their peers about child trafficking.

More than 100 delegates attended the conference sponsored by Unicef and the Japanese foreign ministry.

Azerbaijan is primarily a **source** and transit country for **men, women, and children**

trafficked for the purposes of commercial **sexual exploitation** and **forced labor**. Women from Azerbaijan are trafficked to Turkey and the U.A.E. for purposes of sexual exploitation. Men are trafficked to Russia for the purpose of forced labor. Men and women are also trafficked to Iran, Pakistan, and India for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. Azerbaijani children are trafficked to Turkey for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and to Russia for the purpose of forced labor. Reports of internal trafficking also continued, including that of women for sexual exploitation, men for forced labor in the construction industry, and children for the purpose of child begging. Azerbaijan serves as a transit country for victims from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova trafficked to Turkey and the U.A.E. for sexual exploitation. Women and girls were trafficked internally from rural areas to the capital for sexual exploitation, men were trafficked to Turkey and Russia for forced labor, and boys were trafficked internally for begging. Iranians, Iraqis, Afghans, and migrants from South Asia were smuggled through the country to Europe—particularly Germany, Sweden, France, and the Netherlands—and to the US, where they at times had their passports confiscated and were subjected to forced labor. Traffickers generally targeted women. Refugees, IDPs, and the rural poor faced a higher risk of being trafficked.

Traffickers were either foreigners or ethnic Azerbaijanis who acted in loose concert with international networks.

They approached victims directly and indirectly through friends and relatives, usually offering to arrange employment abroad. Traffickers also used deceptive newspaper advertisements offering false work abroad.

Traffickers reportedly used forged documents to move victims. Traffickers also used fraudulent marriage proposals from men posing as Iranian businessmen to lure women into prostitution in neighboring Iran. Some families willingly married their daughters to wealthy Iranians without concern for the actual outcome.



The Kirghiz Republic is a source, transit, and destination country for men and women from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, South Asian countries, and from within the Kirghiz Republic, trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the **Kirghiz Republic** entered a period of social, political and economic transition making life especially difficult for women and children. Men and women are trafficked to Kazakhstan for **forced labor** in the agricultural sector and as **domestic servants**, to Russia for forced work in construction, and to the People's Republic of China for **bonded labor**. Kirghiz and foreign women are trafficked to the United Arab Emirates, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Thailand, Germany, and Syria for **sexual exploitation**.

One European study quoted in the U.N. report says that of the **1,322** across six **villages** in Kyrgyzstan, nearly **half** of the marriages were the result of kidnappings, and that as many as **two-thirds** were non-consensual.

Kazakhstan is a source, transit, and destination country for men and women from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Ukraine trafficked to Russia and the U.A.E. for purposes of **forced labor** and **commercial sexual exploitation**. Kazakhstani men and women are trafficked internally and to the U.A.E., Turkey, Israel, Greece, Russia, and Germany for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Reports indicate **a rise in the number of children engaged in commercial sexual exploitation, pornography and drug trafficking in urban areas.** **Children** working as **domestic servants** are often invisible and, for this reason, also vulnerable to exploitation. Internal trafficking from rural to urban areas also occurs.

Thirty-eight-year-old **Svetlana** remembers vividly her **ordeal** at the hands of human traffickers two years ago. After losing her job as a child-care worker in the Kazakh commercial capital, Almaty, the single mother with piercing blue eyes was desperate to secure a better life for herself and her daughter. "This was my chance. I needed to make it work," she told IRIN. Responding to a job advertisement in a local paper, she accepted an au pair post in the UK, and paid out close to US \$1,800 for flights, visas and the promise of language training. But after her arrival, she discovered her sponsors had other plans. There was no job, no language course, and with food and accommodation at a premium in London, she soon found herself going into debt to her so-called benefactors.

"I borrowed 350 pounds and was given a menial job cleaning rooms in a small hotel. No one wanted to hire me. I didn't have the right papers and I couldn't pay this money back," she explained. Later, the Russian-speaking woman who had met her at the airport introduced her to her Albanian boyfriend, who proposed that Svetlana work at his sauna providing massages for visiting clientele. "This was a shock for me. I didn't know what to do," she said. "Suddenly I felt trapped."

But Svetlana was lucky. She was not subject to violence or rape when she refused to comply with those who trafficked her to the UK. Still possessing her passport and return ticket to Almaty, she managed to escape with just the clothes on her back. Many others though, have not been so fortunate.

Trafficking in women is a problem for Tajikistan

"The trafficking in women and girls from Tajikistan for sexual exploitation is currently a problem. There are cases in which some employment agencies, **'offering good jobs abroad'**, actually **buy young women** in order to sell them to foreign partners as prostitutes. These young women are turned into sex slaves once they arrive in another country. The new 'owners' take their passports away to prevent them from escaping. The women are raped, beaten and starved. Some women are paid for their sex services, others are given a chance to buy their freedom, while some are not paid at all," the report said, without giving any figures.

AUGUST 17, 2001 – An IOM study published today - "Deceived Migrants from Tajikistan: A study in Trafficking in Women and Children" - reveals that an estimated 1,000 women were trafficked from Tajikistan in the year 2000. Traffickers, usually Tajik women, rely on job promises carried by word of mouth, the inexperience of victims and the support of a series of well connected contacts, such as travel agencies and officials. The report also found that although less frequent, abandoned children are also trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

British Embassy Opens Its Doors - Personal Testimony of Children

KHURSHED'S STORY - Khurshed is 12 years old and is from Dushanbe. His family consisted of 2 younger brothers and a mother who started drinking when his father left for Russia. When his mother gets drunk, Khurshed runs away from home, and sleeps in basements and doorways. He sells plastic bags in the market for which he earns about 2 somoni per day. But sometimes he loses even this money when he is robbed by older boys or the militia.

According to UNICEF, **18 % of Tajik children** between the ages of **5 and 14 are working**. Many of them are **homeless**. The number of children grows in the summer. They come to the capital from different villages [around Tajikistan] to earn money. Street children live a dangerous life, and the police use force against them.

As a young girl, **Nasiba did not go to school**. She remembers carrying huge bags of fruit and vegetables to the market every morning and then back again at night. She was also responsible for taking her little brothers and sisters to the market or school. The police, she says, would continually harass her for hanging around the town.

Turkmenistan appears to be a source country for women trafficked to Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Iran, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Women may be trafficked internally for purposes of sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. According to IOM, there were six confirmed Turkmen victims trafficked to Turkey in 2006. One potential victim of sexual exploitation was intercepted in Kazakhstan while en route to the U.A.E.

- "Street children' are a rather new phenomenon in Turkmenistan. The vast majority of **"street/working children** have a place to live and have parents or close relatives. Most of them return to their homes at night. They spend their days on the street begging, vending, washing cars or helping at the markets. Usually the State responds to this type of behavior by placing the children in Children's Remand Centers, also called Centers for the Temporary Isolation, Adaptation and Rehabilitation of Children.

Child prostitution is not considered to be a serious problem in the country and no information is available about the existence of sale and trafficking of children and child pornography. UNICEF reported a good working relationship with the Inspectorates for Juvenile Affairs, the main actors in the child system in Turkmenistan, and is currently completing a study on children in childcare institutions, including street children who are brought to the children's remand centre.

South Asia

India

As many as 200,000 Nepal girls, many under 14, have been sold into the sex slavery in

India.

Nepalese women and girls, especially virgins, are favored in India because of their fair skin and young looks.

And according to official crime statistics in India, 6,822 women were killed in 2002 as a result of violence related to demands for dowry - the payment of cash or goods by the bride's family to the groom's family.

Pakistan

Like other South Asian countries, Pakistan has many recorded cases where wives and sisters have been sold to brothels to raise money for gambling, drinking or consuming drugs usually because the father has no other way to raise the money than to sell his daughters. Sex slaves are also bought by 'agents' in nearby Afghanistan who trick young virgin girls into coming to Pakistan for well-paying jobs. These might then be taken to brothels and forced into sexual slavery.

Bangladesh

There are an estimated 200,000 women trafficked to Pakistan in the last 10 years, continuing at the rate of 200-400 women monthly. In 1994, 2,000 women were prostituted in six cities in India.

Nepal

There are an estimated 5,000 women trafficked to India yearly. According to recent statistics, some 5,000 to 7,000 women and children are trafficked from Nepal to India every year for forced prostitution, while thousands others are believed to be trafficked to Gulf countries in the name of jobs abroad.. After India with 100,000 women, Hong Kong is the second biggest market.

Organizers in rural areas, brokers and even family members sell girls. Husbands sometimes sell their wives to brothels.





Freedom at rice fields - The equation of slavery in our world today typically assumes that if people are powerful enough, no one will stand to stop their profit in oppressing the weak – in buying, selling, enslaving, beating and abusing their victims.

In March 2004, IJM and local authorities rescued 35 people from slavery and sexual harassment at the mill. The owner pled guilty in a summary trial, but was released immediately upon the conclusion of his court he-held virtually unaccountable for the enslavement and gross abuse he had inflicted. Emboldened by impunity, the slave owner “restocked” his mill with new slaves and began to bargain openly about how he would continue his operations using forced laborers and that no one could stop him.

After trying for several months to gain access to the mill and meet some of the “second generation victims” IJM’s lead investigator designed and executed an intricate mission that arranged for IJM agents to speak with the owner and to meet the new victims while the owner was occupied. The owner made outrageous admissions to undercover IJM agents, boasting about how he trapped this new group through the bait of illegal monetary advances. He described how he would track down victims that escaped his facility, how he could not be touched and how there was nothing anyone could do to change the system. IJM agents believed otherwise and remained committed to bringing the owner to justice.

The second raid saw another eleven people receive release certificates from the government, certifying their new – found freedom. During the raid, the owner had to be physically restrained after trying to hit a police officer who had blocked him from harassing the victims. IJM’s intervention team, which has facilitated the rescue of hundreds of slaves, said they had never seen a group of slaves to leave a facility.

The slave owner at the rice mill has been charged by police with crimes relating to slavery currently awaits trial. As a documented recidivist, he is now likely to gain much less favor now with local criminal justice authorities.

IJM social worker continues to follow-up with former victims to ensure they are able to care for themselves and their families as they embrace new lives of freedom. Many of the rescued victims have been provided with monetary compensation from the local government and are capitalizing on their freedom by starting new businesses, breeding goats and investing in their children’s education.



An Indian man named Shakil says he was drugged and his kidney removed against his will.

New Delhi, India
 Police in India has broken up what they call a global organ-trafficking scheme and are hunting its alleged mastermind, a doctor identified as Amit Kumar. Authorities Tuesday asked for the public's help in tracking down Kumar after a raid last week on a

home in Gurgaon, a city near New Delhi.

Police characterized the scheme as an attempt to harvest kidneys from the poor and sell the organs to wealthy patients.

At least one doctor was arrested, police said, and at least two patients - one from Greece and the other from the United States - initially were detained before being freed.

Gurgaon Police Commissioner Mahendra Lal said the doctor confessed the ring carried out about 500 transplants over about 10 years in five states across India. Lal said four doctors as well as nurses, medical technicians and others were involved in the scheme, working out of a house in Gurgaon with an operating theater.

Police also said they discovered a worldwide roster of 48 people waiting for transplants.

Kumar, who also uses the alias Dr. Santosh Rameshwar Raut, may not be in India anymore, police said.

Under Indian law, the sale of human organs is illegal, but the country has a flourishing black market. There have long been reports of poor Indians selling their kidneys and even giving them up by force in some cases.

The problem is extensive enough for the Indian Health Ministry to be developing new legislation that lawmakers hope will stop the illegal organ trade.

Shakil, a 28-year-old recovering from a transplant in a Gurgaon hospital, winced as he described how his kidney was forcibly removed.

"Two armed guards took me to another room. They took blood samples ... forced me onto a stretcher and then they gave me an injection," he said. "When I woke up, I had pain in my waist and I was dizzy." Shakil and others in nearby hospital beds said a man approached them with promises of well-paying jobs. Instead, he brought them to the house in Gurgaon, they said.

"The surgery has been done professionally, there's no doubt, by someone who is qualified and seems to know his job," said Sanjay Narula, a surgeon who is caring for the victims now.

A **9-year-old girl** toils under the hot sun, making bricks from morning to night, seven days a week. She was **trafficked with her entire family** from Bihar, one of the poorest and most underdeveloped states in India, and **sold to the owner of a brick-making factory**. With no means of escape, and unable to speak the local language, the family is isolated and lives in terrible conditions.



Under the guise of offering **boys** an apprenticeship in a trade, child trafficking victims are confined and **forced to work** in a small **factories or workshops** under harsh **conditions** such as these Indian boys in a **'Zari'** (beadwork sewing) **shop**.





This photo was taken in a single room **drop-off shelter**, deep in a maze of brothels in a Calcutta red light district. These kids mothers, often trafficking victims, normally would just shove the kids under the bed when they had customers - exposing the children to enormous risk.



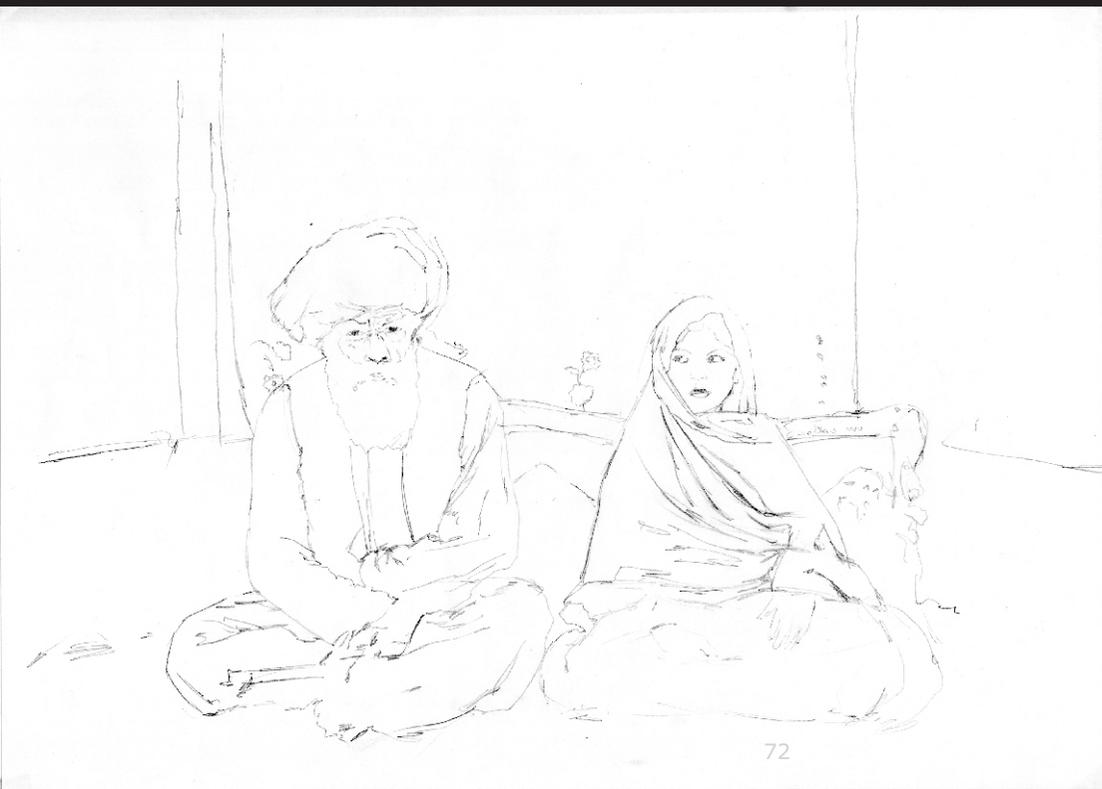
Street children of India

A former slave in northern India, this woman and her entire village were part of

"The Silent Revolution,"

during which thousands of slaves has risked violence and death to free them.

This is the **true story of people held in slavery in the stone quarries of northern India**, who risk everything to take back their lives. The silent revolution follows a group of stone-breakers who challenge the slave holders, are burned out of their homes, are imprisoned, and finally win the right to run their own quarry and start a new village. Now, as they struggle to survive in freedom, they are sending their children to school, replanting the forests, and beginning to hope for a life beyond stone-breaking. The film features an Indian NGO, Sankalp, which helps with rehabilitation of former bonded laborers.



A **40-year-old groom** sitting beside his **11-year-old future bride**, taken last year in Afghanistan by photographer Stephanie Sinclair. The legal age to wed for a girl in Afghanistan is 16, however child marriages are still common in many areas. Sinclair, asked the child bride what show she felt, she responded, "Nothing, I do not know this man. What am I supposed to feel?"



A 12
year-old
boy working in a
Bangladeshi
brickyard.
Children
involved
in child
labor
have
little
to no
access to
an education,
and therefore their
escape from the
factories, fields,
etc becomes
very limited, in
addition many
children are
malnourished
and ripe for
additional
exploitation.

SE Asia is region with the highest number of **human trafficking** activities in the world.

Korea - Around the military bases, there are 18,000 registered and 9,000 unregistered prostitutes. Forms of prostitution include escort and call girls, street prostitution, and from cafes, clubs, cabarets, show cases, massage parlors and beauty shops.
Women suspected of prostitution can be confined in rehabilitation centers without due process.

Malaysia - There are an estimated 142,000 women in prostitution in Malaysia, with 8,000-10,000 in Kuala Lumpur.
Main channels of sexual exploitation: **recreation businesses, i.e. entertainment, fitness clubs and the like.** Almost every town has a **red-light district.**

Taiwan - Forty percent of young prostitutes in the main red-light district are **aboriginal girls.** Girls under 13 have been made to undergo **hormone injections** by brothels owners to hasten their physical development.

Indonesia - There are 65,582 registered prostitutes in 1994, with an estimated total of 500,000 in prostitution. Localized bordello complexes, 'localizers,' are managed under local government regulations.
The estimated financial turnover of the **sex industry** ranges from **US\$ 1.2 billion** to **US\$ 3.6 billion.**

Thailand - Estimates on the number of women in prostitution range from 300,000 to **2.8 million**, of which a third are minors. Thai women are also in prostitution in many countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and the US.
4.6 million Thai men regularly and 500,000 foreign tourists annually, use prostituted women.

Vietnam - Most trafficking is to China and to Cambodia, including children. Trafficking happens through **kidnapping, especially for brothels, deceptive job offers or tourist trips,** match-making with foreigners who often sell and resell the women abroad. Prostitution is becoming a feature of the burgeoning tourism industry: hotels and tourist companies provide women to clients. Also, business deals are closed with presents of women.

Japan - The **largest sex industry** market for Asian women. Over **150,000 non-Japanese women in prostitution,** more than half are Phillipines, 40 percent are Thai women. **One 'sex zone'** in Tokyo, only 0.34 sq. km., has **3,500 sex facilities:** strip theaters, peep shows, 'soap lands,' 'lover's banks,' porno shops, telephone clubs, karaoke bars, clubs, etc.

Japanese men also constitute the largest number of sex tourists in Asia.

The sex industry accounts for 1 percent of the Gross National Product and equals the defense budget.

China - Shangchuan Island off Guangdong is a tourist spot offering drugs and sex casinos with 300 women from all over China. In 1994, 500,000 tourists spent HK\$55.8 million on legal tourist services alone. There is a resurgence of prostitution all over China. **Women are also being trafficked for sale as wives to husbands who often resell them.** Hong Kong Fake contracts for domestic work land the women in brothels that employ Chinese minder to prevent runaways. **Influx of East European women in high-priced clubs.** Macau has Russian mafia bringing in women. In 1994, a woman attempting to escape was murdered.

Burma - There are estimated 20,000 - 30,000 Burmese women in Thailand. **Forms of trafficking: deceptive job placements that land women in brothels, abduction by agents for clients, sale of girls from hill tribes.** As illegal immigrants in Thailand, prostitutes are arrested, detained and deported back to Burma, with 50-70 percent being HIV positive.

In **Papua New Guinea**, the compensation demand for the killing of a clan leader was \$15,000, 25 pigs and an 18-year-old girl. However, Miriam Wilngal, an 18-year-old girl refused to be sold by her own tribe as an object of compensation for the murder of a tribe leader. She wanted to finish high school, and not be dependent upon a man.

In **East Timor** since the 1975 invasion of Timor by Indonesia, Indonesian authorities, particularly the military have systematically violated the rights of Timorese women and girls. They have been **forcibly sterilized, forcibly married, coerced into taking contraceptives and gang raped.** East Timorese women are in **forced marriages with Indonesian soldiers**, who abandon the women and any children born when they leave.

New Zealand Rebuffs Child Trafficking, Prostitution Claims in US Report April 04, 07

The Government is disputing a US State Department report that claims New Zealand has a major problem with child trafficking and prostitution.

The Government has taken up the issue of the claim in successive annual State Department human rights reports since 2004, but it is again repeated in this year's report. The report, which includes sections on every country, said "commercial sexual exploitation of children was a problem", estimating up to 200 under 18-year-olds were working in the sex industry.

The comments were included under the report's trafficking section. The police rape trials, Algerian refugee Ahmed Zaoui's asylum case and the death in custody of Auckland teenager Liam Ashley also rated mentions in this year's report.

The figures are based on a 2004 report by the Prostitution Law Review Committee - established by the Prostitution Reform Act. But a spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters said the figures had been repeatedly misrepresented in the report, which had been discredited in previous years.

"In the past the Americans themselves have acknowledged it wasn't an accurate reflection, but once again the report seems to have been issued without any changes," the spokesman said. The issue would almost certainly be raised with the Americans again.

The report has been widely criticized in previous years, including by the Children's Commissioner.



Surgeons carry out a kidney transplant in 2003. China will formally ban the trade in human organs from May 1, amid ongoing allegations that the nation's military is involved in harvesting organs from executed prisoners.

China to ban human organ trafficking from May 1
04-07-2007,

BEIJING (AFP)China will formally ban the trade in human organs from May 1, state media reported, amid ongoing allegations that the nation's military is involved in harvesting organs from executed prisoners. The regulation, issued by the State Council, or China's cabinet, does not apply to transplants of human tissue such as cells, corneas or bone marrow, the Xinhua news agency reported on Friday. "This is the first regulation of its kind introduced by the central government, and it is a milestone in the country's organ transplant history," vice health minister Huang Jiefu was quoted as saying. China in July last year issued rules on the buying and selling of human organs for transplant. The new regulation "stipulates that human organ transplants should respect the principle of voluntary and free donation and makes it a crime to harvest organs without the owner's permission or against his will," Xinhua said. The law, which forbids the use of organs from minors, aims to "safeguard citizens' lawful rights" and ensure the quality of transplant surgery, it added. The regulation sets out strict guidelines for hospitals allowed performing organ transplants. Doctors found to be involved in the organ trade will have their licenses revoked, face fines and their clinics will be forbidden from performing transplant surgery for at least three years. Officials convicted of trading in human organs will be sacked and kicked out of government, Xinhua said. International human rights groups have long accused China of harvesting organs from executed prisoners for transplant without the consent of the prisoner or his or her family. Hospitals have also been regularly accused of secretly taking organs from road accident victims and other dead patients without telling family members. The health ministry has denied those charges, saying most organs are voluntarily donated by ordinary citizens and executed criminals who consented to donations before their deaths.

Girls for sale - November 26, 2005

More than two dozen suspects have been arrested so far, according to the Sanxiang Metropolis News.

The paper said an alleged baby trader arrested in Hunan's Qidong County told police he has been selling babies to orphanages and social welfare institutions for years, making 800 yuan (US\$99) to 1,200 yuan on each transaction.

The agencies then resold the children to other orphanages or childless couples for 8,000 yuan to 30,000 yuan, the newspaper said.

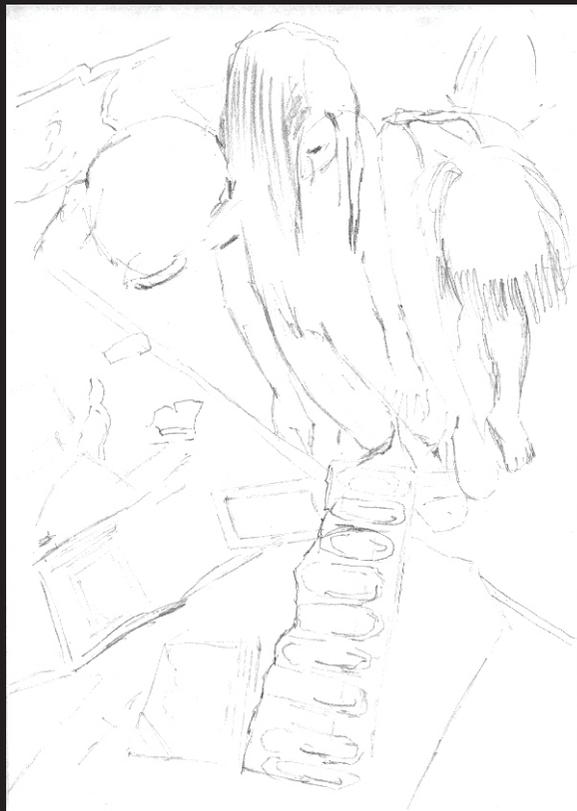
The picture accompanying the report, however, was not from the Hunan case but from a similar case in Guangdong province. The leaders of the human trafficking ring over there were sentenced to death, while the others were given fairly stiff prison sentences.

Human trafficking extends beyond babies, of course. The International Labor Organization has recently implemented some programs to help combat this problem as it pertains to young women as the most vulnerable of economic migrants in a country where, as of last year, an estimated 120 million migrated in search of better jobs. This recent report details some of the awareness raising campaigns that the ILO, in conjunction with local government and Women's Federation offices, has been working on. These campaigns have mostly targeted the three "sending provinces" of Anhui, Hunan, and Henan, and aim to not only to educate children (potential future migrants) about the hazards of migration, but also to promote new innovations such as a village trafficking "alarm" networks.



The New Abolitionists
August 30, 2004.

Freeing 'sex slaves' is now at the top of the human rights agenda, thanks to Christian evangelicals, the Bush administration, and two former Washington politicians, Linda Smith and John Miller. How did the anti-trafficking crusade evolve, and is it being over hyped? A brothel bust in China: While human trafficking takes many forms, the new abolition activists focus on "sex slavery," broadly defined as any form of prostitution, legal or illegal.





Thailand's **fishing industry**
relies heavily on Burmese laborers - men and women - most of
whom are undocumented and highly vulnerable to conditions of
forced labor.



Mon, a child sex worker at a brothel in Poipet. Mon, the eldest of five siblings, comes from a Cambodian Muslim tribe in Kampong Spu.



Like other child sex workers, she insists that she is over 18. No one believes this but with the Cambodian government at least superficially cracking down on child prostitution the meager lie is necessary. Mon was sold to the brothel owner for 1,000,000 Cambodian Riel, about \$250 USD, due to the extreme poverty of her family. She has now been working as for more than a year without days off except during her menstrual periods, usually serving four or five customers a day. Mon has tried to commit suicide more than six times.

Child prostitution is one of the biggest issues confronting Cambodia today. Yet, the real issue is not the prostitution itself but human trafficking. Each year, thousands of young girls, or even tens of thousands, are victims of sexual exploitation.

Cambodian women and children are **trafficked** from the country to cities or towns, mainly **for sexual exploitation.** Many trafficked persons believe they

are being recruited for other purposes such as domestic work. Unfortunately, these victims are deceived or, in a smaller number of cases, kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery, living under the control of brothel-owners. Vietnamese women, girls and boys are also trafficked into, within and across Cambodia for sexual exploitation. Cross-border trafficking out of Cambodia is also very serious. Many Cambodian women, children and men are trafficked into Thailand and to more distant places such as Malaysia, Macao and Taiwan. Women and girls are commonly trafficked for sexual exploitation or domestic work, children for begging and/or street selling, and men for fisheries and construction work. Women, men and children are also trafficked for other forms of forced labor including sweatshops and farm work. Common characteristics of trafficking into forced or exploited labor include situations of: little or no pay debt bondage; false promises about salary and working conditions which are not realized after arrival; physical punishment and torture; extremely long working hours; sexual abuse; due wages withheld for all kinds of reasons; and no control over daily life (such as inability to leave the premises of work). Sometimes, workers are forced to take drugs to enable them to work long hours to increase production. Finally, baby trafficking has also occurred in Cambodia. While there are orphans in Cambodia due to HIV/AIDS, the large amount of money that unsuspecting parents from Western countries are willing to provide to facilitate the adoption of babies from **Cambodia has unfortunately created a market for non-orphaned babies.** Direct kidnaping is rare as recruiters have various means of persuading vulnerable families into giving away their babies.

Mongolia is a source country for women and men trafficked for the purposes of **sexual exploitation and forced labor.** Trafficking reportedly has increased in Mongolia over the last few years but remains difficult to quantify. Most **victims** do not file police reports or approach NGO's. Mongolian girls and women are trafficked to People's Republic of China, Macau, and South Korea for commercial sexual exploitation. A significant number of North Koreans contract laborers in Mongolia are not free to leave their employment, raising strong concerns that their labor is compulsory. Some **Mongolian women** who enter into marriages with foreign husbands - mainly South Koreans - **discovered conditions of involuntary servitude** after moving to their husbands' homeland.

Underage girls are trafficked internally for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. - US. State Dept Trafficking in Persons Report, June, 2007 Detention Order on Clothing Produced in Mongolia with Forced Child Labor

Evidence obtained by Customs investigators suggests that factory managers are forcing employees, some of whom are minors, to work 14-hour days, 7 days a week. In addition, it has been reported that factory management is deducting unreasonable amounts of money from the workers' salaries without paying overtime. It has also been reported that minor age children are being treated as adult age workers, which is a violation of Mongolian law. In addition, working conditions at both factories are said to be poor and employee housing is substandard.

You Mi Kim, former sex trafficking victim is now a student

Less than a year earlier, she'd been a college student in South Korea, only to be tricked into leaving her home by sex traffickers offering promises of a high-paying hostess job. Desperate for a way out of her \$40,000 debt, You Mi bit. Now, she was at the end of yet another 15-hour shift of forced sex.

The man examined You Mi's petite frame, her brown eyes and her dark hair, which fell like silk to her shoulders. He pointed at her. You Mi led him from the lobby to one of the four upstairs massage rooms and told him to shower in the bathtub behind a curtain in the corner. "This is my first time," he said. It was a line You Mi heard daily inside Sun Spa. The man was athletic, muscular. After showering, he led her to the bed and stretched out on his stomach. You Mi began massaging his shoulders. Suddenly, he jumped off the bed, declared he didn't need a massage and yanked off her white camisole. He threw her to the mattress and forced himself on her, pulling her hair and twisting her small body in so many ways that she screamed in pain. Then the man's eyes went blank. He began choking her. She heard sounds of pleasure escape his throat. He seemed to be enjoying it. The manager burst through the door. "What's going on?" she shouted in Korean. "Help me!" You Mi gasped. The man released his grip. The manager

turned her attention to the customer. "I'm sorry she disappointed you," she said, refunding his \$50. A disgruntled john might tip off the police. The man pocketed the money, turned and walked out the front door.

Of all the degradations You Mi endured while forced to work as a California sex slave in 2003, this was the worst. In an instant it became clear: Her life amounted to \$50. The manager ordered her back to work. After her attack, You Mi did the only thing she could think of to survive. She wiped away the tears and smiled for her next customer. For nearly a year, You Mi was caught in a sex-trafficking triangle - starting in South Korea, one of the world's leading importers and exporters of sex slaves, and stretching to the exploding Asian outcall market of Los Angeles and then to the Asian massage-parlor Mecca on the West Coast: San Francisco. She would be forced to have sex with dozens of men a week in seedy massage parlors, apartments and hotel rooms. She would live under the watchful eye of guards and surveillance cameras, reminded constantly that her family back in South Korea would be harmed if she ran.

She would work in brothels with blacked-out windows and double metal security doors, allowed outside only under the escort of crooked taxi drivers working for the traffickers who drove her to sex appointments. She would also be trapped culturally, unable to speak more than a few basic sentences in English, unaware of where she was and dependent on her captors for food and shelter.



Busan is infamous for Wan Wol Dong, a maze of dark alleys where women are on display in row upon row of "glass houses." A peculiar Korean invention, a glass house is about the size of a parking space, with glass walls on three sides and a mirrored back wall concealing a private bedroom. Women sit on chairs or chaises or on the floor inside, illuminated by red lights that cast a pink glow.

For about \$75, men strolling or driving by have their pick of older women in silk bathrobes, younger women in hot pants and even preteens in ballerina skirts and heart-shaped bodices. Glass houses are just one item on South Korea's sexual menu.

Sex is sold out of bars, restaurants, coffee shops, barbershops, tearooms, karaoke bars, saunas, massage parlors, over the Internet, in skin-care shops and hair salons, in computer rooms called



PC bangs, in **"love motels"** and in nightclubs near US. military bases.

Even something as simple as ordering coffee has been sexualized. **"Ticket tabang"** girls make home deliveries with thermoses of coffee to sex-seeking callers.

While a 2004 South Korean law targeting pimps and buyers has slowed foot traffic in the open-air sex markets, early signs indicate that the crackdown has had the unintended effect of fueling international sex trafficking. Pimps simply go online or overseas - mainly to Australia and the United States - where demand is high and risk is low. They recruit in cities like Seoul and Busan, where most of the country's universities are located.



Pattaya street scene

Australia - About 300 **Thai women** were held in the sex industry under **debt bondage** in Sydney, Australia in 1995.

International crime syndicates traffic drugs and women, including 10 small syndicates that traffic 300 Thai women yearly. Women trafficked to Australia are indentured by a **\$15,000-\$18,000** debt, which they

must work off before they are freed. **Recruiters** from Australia go to **Russia** to hire women for

"table top dancing"

in clubs, which often have links to brothels. Some trafficked and prostituted women who are deported from Australia may try to return to pay off the debt bond because they cannot return home without money.

Prostitution grosses A\$30 million annually.

There are 3,000 **children**, some **younger than 10**, in the Australian **sex industry**, which includes brothels, escort work, street prostitution, pornography, sex for favors and stripping.

59 of 2,992 prostitutes studied for a report conducted by EPCAT were between 10 and 12 years old. 15 were under 10 years old. Two-thirds were girls.

Child prostitution in Australia was studied by ECPAT, which collected information from early 471 government and non-government agencies working with children. The study, the first of its kind, revealed a vicious cycle leading to child commercial sexual activities. Links were found between young people being sold and youth homelessness, dysfunctional family backgrounds and lack of self-esteem. The government and public should act immediately to provide housing, income security, education and advice to young people. Children are also sold to sex tourists. Parents have been found to sell their own children.

More than 1200 Victorian children are involved in prostitution - the highest rate in the nation.

320 Queensland children were involved in child prostitution.

More than 3100 Australian children aged 12-18 sold sex to survive.

Children younger than 10 were involved in organized pedophile rings.

The Blue Room, an Internet bulletin board, had **60%** of its **messages about child pornography**.

There were more than 450 subscribers, more than 100 in Australia. Ten suspected pedophiles were identified. Police made 18 raids and 15 computers were seized.

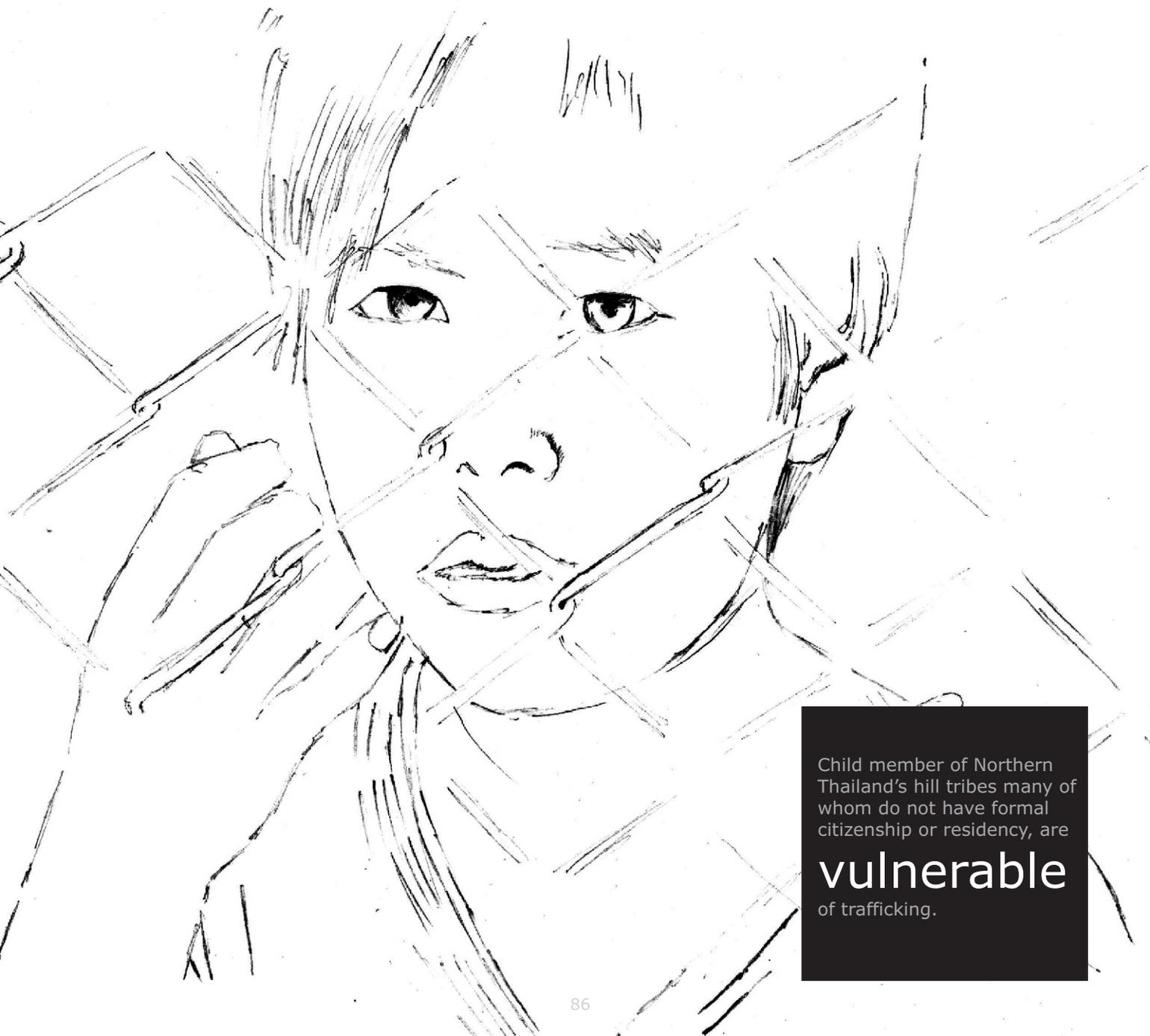
Customs Agents intercepted 100 packages of CDs, from a source previously exporting child pornography. Each package had five disks and each CD had approximately 3,500 to 4,000 files.

A report has **identified 5,000 pedophiles** that sexually abuse minors and traffic in child pornography operating in loose networks across Australia. They are linked to international pedophile groups including the Spartacus Club, the Marlin Coasters and the Orchid Club. 30,000 girls and 11,000 boys are sexually abused in Australia each year.

1,800 children were victims of sexual abuse between June 1997 and March 1998 in New South Wales, Australia.

7,754 reports of child abuse or neglect were made and of these 6,830 were substantiated. Reports of child abuse have increased enormously from April 1997-September 1998 and police are arresting about 50 people a month, mainly for sexual assault. 230 assault charges are filed per month due to multiple offences by those charged.

Police feel that people in the community are much more aware of child abuse and prepared to report it, including a growing number of young people reporting that their friends are being abused. There are more police than ever dedicated to investigating child abuse.



Child member of Northern Thailand's hill tribes many of whom do not have formal citizenship or residency, are

vulnerable
of trafficking.



Sex
tourism

A report put the number of **child victims** of prostitution at 75,000 in the **Philippines**, with other estimates saying **as many as 100,000**. According to the UNICEF an estimated 60,000

to 100,000 children in the Philippines are **Involved in prostitution rings**. There is a high incidence of child prostitution in tourist areas. An undetermined number of children are forced into exploitative labor operations. The Philippines is the fourth country with the most number of prostituted children, and authorities have identified an increase in pedophiles traveling to the Philippines.

There are estimated to be 375,000 women and girls in the sex trade in the Philippines, mostly between the ages of 15 and 20, though some are as young as 11. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies state that there are more than 1.5 million street children all over the Philippines and many end up in prostitution and drug trafficking in places such as Manila and Angeles.

Organized crime of child trafficking

A special BBC investigation exposes the organized crime syndicates that control the child sex slavery trafficking in the Philippines. This crime gang has a system and they often start as a trainee field recruiter, to running individual brothels, and then to overseeing an entire network - an underworld association. Local NGO's refer to the organized

crime syndicates as the sex mafia. From the Philippines, girls are delivered to **prison-like brothels** in the North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The organizers of the trade are varied, as well: it's a strange alliance of the Japanese Yakuza, Chinese Triad, Russian and Italian Mafia, eastern European gangsters, Albanian kingpins, Latin American cartels, Nigerian warlords, Asian businessmen and American financiers and subcontractors.

In Subic Bay were offered **children** for sex as young as **4, 6, 12 and 13 years of age** by Filipinos. Most of the 16,000 women estimated to have worked the bars around the largest overseas naval base were forced into the sex industry.

One **16 year old** child **tells of her experience** in Subic Bay: She was **locked** in a room for a **month, starved** and **force-fed drugs** and alcohol to ensure she was addicted and could be more easily controlled. She was often **beaten** unconscious for refusing **to have sex with customers**.

Pregnancies, abortion, the spread of disease and drug abuse were just some of the indignities imposed on Philippines. Despite the US pull-out from Subic Bay in 1992, continues to fester, catering to a new generation of civilian sex tourists. The former naval base and current visits by American military has been the subject of protests by welfare groups and activists in Subic. Brandishing placards and chanting slogans, members of WAIL and Gabriella called for justice for all victims of human rights abuses.

Davao - October 5 has become the Day of No Prostitution Campaign in Davao City. The Philippine Information Agency reports documented cases of children as young as 10 years old forced into prostitution in Davao. Davao provinces, along with the Caraga region, have become the favorites of child traffickers posing as tourists. Davao is one of the top five areas for child prostitution and sex tourism. The Tambayan Center for Abused Street Girls reports more than 1,000 teenage girls have turned to prostitution in Davao City, charging as little as 50 cents.

Foreign pedophiles are a major problem in a poor country like the Philippines. Some foreign pedophiles are very well connected and have positions in industry and politics. Profile studies of these pedophiles show they come mostly from Europe and are usually well off, married and with children of their own. Some foreign pedophiles arrange with bribes and corrupt practices to get the children out of the country and abuse them in another county. The tragic reason why so many children are being abused by foreign pedophiles with impunity is that Government Officials let it happen to promote tourism.

In 2006, five foreign tourists were arrested by Filipino police for sexually exploiting Filipino children.



Taiwan is receiving approximately

175,000 Vietnamese

“brides” and workers

to date, and the number is growing.

Reverend Nguyen Van Hung, who has received many international awards for his humanitarian efforts, and his volunteers have established a shelter in Taiwan to reach out to the unfortunate women, children and men who got caught in the modern-day slavery net.

The case of H., for instance. She came to Taiwan as a bride. **From rape to torture**, she endured it all, until the husband's family **forced her to have an abortion**. To protect her unborn child, she protested and as a result, she received severe beating. She was locked out on a balcony for five days without food while she was five-month pregnant. She eventually escaped, managed to reach Father Hung's shelter. With the shelter's help, H. was able to keep her baby and safely return to Vietnam to join her family.

United States

- Trafficking in women plagues the United States as much as it does underdeveloped nations. Organized prostitution networks have migrated from metropolitan areas to small cities and suburbs. Women trafficked to the United States have been forced to have sex with 400-500 men to pay off \$40,000 in debt for their passage.

In mid-1997 in Queens New York police were informed of more than 60 Mexican immigrants including 12 children ranging in age from 6 months to 6 years, being held in **"involuntary servitude"**.

The United Nations now lists Mexico as the number one center for the supply of young children to North America. Most are sold to rich, childless couples unwilling to wait for bona fide adoption agencies to provide them with a child. The majority are sent to international **pedophile organizations**. Many times the children are snatched while on errands for their parents. Often they are drugged and raped. Most of the **children over 12 end up as prostitutes**.

Cases - Donald A. Young, a Pennsylvania lawyer is being charged with **raping and imprisoning two Honduran women** he met through magazine ads. He is also accused of abusing the women's children in his home. Authorities believe he also imprisoned several other foreign women. He had bars on the windows and deadbolts on the doors.

- Richard Blau, a Manhattan businessman, has been charged with abusing an immigrant Burmese woman whom he kept chained in his bedroom for nearly two weeks after offering her work as a cleaning woman. In the United States, mail-order-bride agencies are developing everywhere.

- One business, A Foreign Affair, has had more than **15,000 male buyers** since it began. There are 200 to 250 of these companies in the United States, a third of which started in 1997. At least 80 of these focus exclusively on Russian and Eastern European women. A Foreign Affair has about 3,500 women from Russia, Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. The business claims they are responsible for an engagement or marriage every week.

Mexico

- The United Nations now lists Mexico as the number one center for the supply of **young children** to North America. Most are **sold to** rich, childless **couples** unwilling to wait for bona fide adoption agencies to provide them with a child. The majority are sent to international pedophile organizations. Many times the children are snatched while on errands for their parents. Often they are drugged and raped. Most of the children over 12 end up as prostitutes. Hector Ramirez, a former deputy, or Mexican Member of Parliament, stated that "many of the state and city authorities are doing absolutely nothing to stop what is going on."

Cuba

is a source country for women and children trafficked internally for the purpose of commercial **sexual exploitation**. Cuban adults and children also are exploited for forced labor, mostly in commercial agriculture; some are reportedly trafficked to the United States under circumstances of debt bondage. The country is a major destination for sex tourism, including **child sex tourism**. Cuba's thriving sex trade caters to thousands of European, Canadian, and Latin American tourists every year, and involves large numbers of Cuban **girls and boys, some as young as 12**. State-run hotel workers, travel employees, cab drivers, hospitality staff, and police steer tourists to prostituted women and children and facilitate the commercial sexual exploitation of these women and children. Sex trafficking of Cuban women to Mexico and Western Europe also has been reported.

Trinidad and Tobago - The increase in HIV is attributed to **sex tourism, prostitution and pornography**. European and North American men are the majority of the sex tourists. Tourist agents and unlisted guest homes run the industry, with advertisements in European magazines that announce **"package deals"** that include cost of **buying a woman or girl**.

Case - Before a 14 year old girl died of AIDS she reported that she had been sold for sex to 30 men between ages 19 and 29.

Jamaica is principally a **source** country for women and children trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. The majority **of** victims are Jamaican **women and girls, and increasingly boys**, who are trafficked from rural to urban and tourist areas for **sexual exploitation**. Some children are subjected to conditions of forced labor as domestic servants.

Guatemala lacks appropriate national legislation in order to regulate international adoptions, as a result an open exportation of babies has been developed. According to the Procurator General of the Nation more than 2,000 babies are adopted abroad every year, the majority go to the United States and Canada. The legal requirements necessary to privately adopt a Guatemalan baby are minimal - you need a certificate from a lawyer and a short report from a social worker - there is practically no state control over the origin or the destiny of the baby. This is in contrast to national adoptions where, at least, a person needs a decision from a judge in order to proceed.

The lawyers involved in private adoptions can earn between US\$ 12,000 and US\$ 15,000 dollars for completing the necessary paper work, and in some cases the couples pay as much as \$60,000 for a baby. **Illegal practices**

develop including the **kidnapping of babies**, from Mexico and El Salvador, payments to mothers who rent their wombs and the buying of babies from very poor mothers.



Human trafficking becomes an elusive target in the US. - Los Angeles — Florencia Molina's personal hell hole was a dressmaking shop on the outskirts of Los Angeles. She worked there up to 17 hours a day, seven days a week, and lived there, too, without the option of showering or washing her clothes. Other victims of American-style human trafficking have had very different venues for ordeals as bad or worse — brothels and bars in New Jersey, slave-labor farms in Florida, a small-town tree-cutting business owned by a New Hampshire couple.

"Human trafficking is so hidden you don't know who you're fighting — the victims are so scared, they're not going to tell you what's happening to them," said Given Kachepa, a former victim of a scam which exploited Zambian orphans touring the United States in a boys' choir. Aligned against the traffickers is an array of federal, state and local government agencies, teamed up with an odd coalition of private groups that include Christian conservatives and left-of-center immigrant-rights advocates. The result is perhaps the most far-reaching anti-trafficking campaign of any nation, yet some victim-support groups question its effectiveness.

They contend that federal criteria offering assistance to victims only if they help prosecute their traffickers deters some people from seeking

help. Others say the government has placed too much emphasis on sex trafficking and too little on workplace abuses at sweatshops and farms.

"We see sex cases being prioritized (by federal prosecutors), but other cases we're having a hard time getting looked at," said Elissa Steglich, an attorney for the Chicago-based Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center.

"Whatever type of slavery you're dealing with, they're horrors all the same."

Molina was the beneficiary of one case in which the anti-trafficking campaign worked as intended. Her helpers — as she escaped from the dress shop, learned English and gained legal US. residence — included the FBI and the Los Angeles-based Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, which provides victims with shelter, legal aid and other services.

Now a cashier at a discount store, Molina was enticed to California by a woman back home in Mexico's Puebla state who promised a job and free housing.

"I came to the United States with lots of dreams, but when I got here, my dreams were stolen," said Molina, 33, who left three children behind in Mexico.

On Jan. 1, 2002, she worked her first shift at the dressmaker's, sewing roughly 200 party dresses over 12 hours. Later, the shifts stretched to 17 hours. Molina was locked into the shop at night — sleeping in a small storage room. The shop manager confiscated her identify documents.

"For me, it was completely dark, without money, without English, no papers," Molina said. "The owner told me, 'You can try to do whatever you want. Dogs in this country have more rights than you.'"

After 40 days, Molina summoned up the nerve to flee, and soon encountered FBI agents who were investigating the dress shop. They sought her cooperation in prosecuting the owner, and Molina — after difficult deliberations — agreed to help.

"The owner had always told me I would pay the consequences — or my family in Mexico would suffer — if I went to the authorities," she said. "But I thought to myself, 'I don't want one more person to be in the situation I was in.'"

By cooperating, Molina received a T-visa, a status created by Congress in 2000 that allows trafficking victims who assist prosecutors to stay in the United States for three years and then apply for permanent residence. Molina's three children have received permission to join her in California.

MISSING PERSON...

Help Find JESSIE FOSTER -

by JessiesMomGlendene



My sweet, dear, wonderful Jessie...

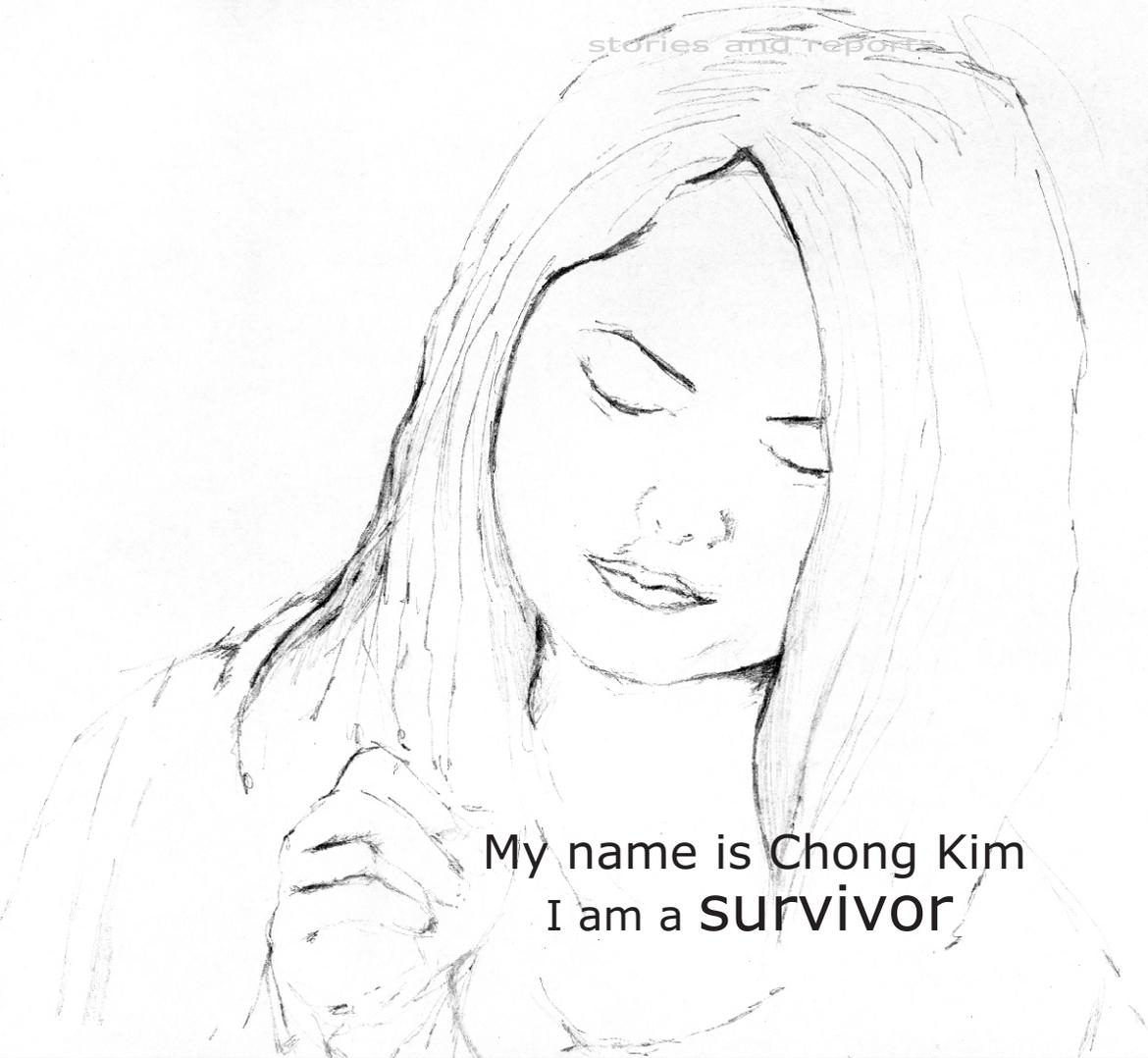
Hi baby, this is Mom. I just wanted to let you know how much I miss you and how hard we are working to find you and bring you home. I know how scared you must be and how worried you are about us worrying about you. Do not think about that, keep your thoughts on staying strong and safe – NOT put yourself in any more danger, be smart. We are strong and we are not stopping. With all my heart and soul I feel you are alive and out there, somewhere, needing to be found and rescued. We will do that.

Jessie, I also want you to know that we know what you have been through. We know what was happening in Vegas. Do NOT blame yourself or think that you need to be forgiven for ANYTHING. You are a VICTIM, even if you think you could have left, you were not able to – your being a victim of human trafficking is proof of that. You were trying to come home to Canada and someone stopped you.....

Human Trafficking Victim

My name is Glendene Grant and my Canadian daughter Jessica (Jessie) Foster went missing from her home at 1009 Cornerstone Place, North Las Vegas, NV on March 29/06 after living in Vegas for 10 months. She has been a victim of human trafficking and was kidnapped and taken away. I am trying to expand my network in order to get the word out about my daughter, and I know this is a wonderful tool to use for that purpose. Please pass this message on to all your family, friends and network of people you know, this is very important and happens all too often to innocent people who leave loving families behind trying to figure out what has happened to their loved one. We need to find Jessie.

Here is a letter that I wrote to Jessie the other day, I posted it on a few different sites and we will put it on our webpage, but I thought I would share my thoughts with all our family, friends & supporters in our search for my girl. Please feel free to put it on any other sites that you have, and forward it to anyone you want to. I want everyone to see that Jessie is from a wonderful, fairly normal family who misses her and needs her to come back and fill the hole that is there, gaping and waiting for it to be fixed. If Jessie is not on this earth any longer, she will still fill the space she left with our not know where she is...as long as we know where she is, there is not that huge hole. Do you understand what I mean? I think you must. Anyways, this is some of what I have to say to my Jessie.



My name is Chong Kim
I am a **SURVIVOR**

of Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation.

I was kidnapped and forced into prostitution in Nevada back in 1995, where I was held captive and sold off in an abandon warehouse. After a year in a half being enslaved in this scenario, I later became a Madame initiated my way to become apart of the Trafficking world. My original intention was not to regain power that I lost, but to understand the operation itself and one day finding the courage to expose the truth.

Since my escape from Nevada, I lived my life as a traveling fugitive for more than 3 years in hiding and later stumble across an advocate that I met via online. Without ever meeting this person, I was running out of options for survival and she directed me to relocate to MN. Since my time here, I have been able to admit myself into therapy, allowing myself to heal and grow. Once my life no longer resembled in crisis situation, I began to involve myself in activism for victims of abuse and from that point on I was introduced to the term: Human Trafficking.

Currently, Miss Kim has established a hotline specifically for the victims of trafficking.



Brazil - Slave Labor trying to support a nine-year old daughter back home, Benito followed a brother who had found work at the brick kilns at Transcameta in the Brazilian Amazon. Promised adequate pay, he was deceived into working for an employer who did not pay him, but rather assigned him an ever growing debt for food and lodging costs not previously disclosed. He toiled six days a week and couldn't afford to leave, since he didn't have enough money to get back to his home 500 miles away. Benito and the other slave laborers were not paid anything for months. He was afraid he wouldn't see any wages at all if he left. Benito lived next to the brick kilns in a shack with no ventilation, running water, or electricity. He contracted malaria from the mosquitoes that swarmed the camp.



Nancy Scheper-Hughes with Albery Alfonso da Silva in his mud-walled hut in a slum of Recife, Brazil. Albery was trafficked in August 2003 to Durban, South Africa, where he sold his kidney to an American kidney patient who was flown in from New York City.

To explore the ring that enticed poor Brazilian men to South Africa to sell kidneys for well-to-do Israeli, European and American transplant recipients, Scheper-Hughes visited the slums of Brazil and the big cities of South Africa and Israel. There she tracked both small- and big-time organs brokers, some of them surgeons, others corrupt businessmen and money launderers. She interviewed donors, brokers and others involved in the syndicate that, she says, proves the poor are becoming body banks for the rich.

Authorities enlisted Scheper-Hughes to start last year to untangle and understand the workings of the ring, familiar with her ethnographic and advocacy study of organs trafficking in 12 countries in the past eight years. And they commend her assistance.

"Her knowledge of the subject is extremely thorough. Her information will help us a lot as we continue the investigation," said Capt. Louis Helberg of the project investigation team for the white-collar crime branch of the South African Police.

Scheper-Hughes was invited to South Africa by the government to use her connections and knowledge of organs trafficking to help police investigators and the Ministry of Health in the state of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

In Recife, Brazil, Deputy Raimundo Pimentel of the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission said that Scheper-Hughes has provided the investigation there with "a rich and valuable report about (the) world's reality of human organs trafficking and especially the focus on Brazil's situation."



Human Trafficking Still A Caribbean Problem - June 13, 2007

In its 2007 trafficking in persons report, the US State Department said Belize, Cuba, Guyana and Jamaica need to do more to combat human trafficking. Last year Belize was harshly criticized by the US for not taking steps to end human trafficking, however, this year's report says Belmopan has made significant progress.

According to the document, government increased anti-trafficking training for law enforcement officials, and also improved protection services for victims. In February 2007 the government took a critical step to confront official trafficking-related corruption by arresting two police officers for human smuggling," the report said. Despite this progress, Washington said more needs to be done for the government to advance its anti-trafficking goals. The report also recommended that the Said Musa administration consider increasing penalties for sex trafficking and stepping up law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute traffickers. The original pathologist's report had said a specific bone - the hyoid - was fractured.

Some progress - Under the new law which took effect on 1 March, perpetrators face up to 10 years imprisonment if found guilty of human trafficking. Guyana remains under scrutiny and has been placed on the tier 2 watch list, for what Washington says is the country's failure to provide

evidence of increasing efforts to fight trafficking in persons over the past year.

"The [Guyana] government should aggressively investigate and arrest suspected traffickers and make every effort to move their cases through the criminal justice system," the report said. It also recommended more training for judges and magistrates who handle such cases, particularly in remote areas, where the bulk of trafficking is said to occur. In the case of Cuba, the US says the extent of trafficking is hard to gauge, due to the closed nature of the government. However the report said Havana is a major destination for sex tourism, particularly child sex tourism. "Cuba's thriving sex trade caters to thousands of European, Canadian and Latin American tourists every year, and involves large numbers of Cuban girls and boys, some as young as 12," the report said ...

Haiti's Children the Poor of the Poor - Tuesday, February 19th, 2008

The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti truly is a country in crisis, plagued by poverty, disease, infant mortality, high illiteracy rates, human trafficking, violence and abuse among high numbers of street children and hunger. A recent article showed the gravity of hunger that Haitians are reduced to...eating mud. Mud cookies, which are made from dirt, salt and vegetable shortening, are many children's only source of food some days, and are now a staple of a large number of Haitians diets. Increasing food prices, which are mainly due to increased oil prices and hurricanes, have hit many already fragile Haitians hard. Haiti is a nation which relies on 40% of its food from imports for survival, but rising prices in a nation as poor as Haiti, have only burdened those who cannot carry what has already been placed upon them. Haiti has the highest infant mortality rate in the world for children under 5 years old, with diarrhea, respiratory infections, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are the leading causes of death. However this is not the only large scale issue facing Haitian children. According to UNICEF; Some 60% of Haitians lack access to basic health-care services. Some 19,000 children are infected with HIV/AIDS. At least 2,000 children are trafficked every year to the Dominican Republic, forced to work as child laborers. Less than half of the children attend school, with less than 2% finishing secondary school. In Haiti some 1,000 children are forced to work as messengers, spies and even soldiers for armed gangs in Port Au Prince, in addition there is an estimated 3,000 children enslaved as domestic workers. The long term future for most Haitian children is one of continued struggle.



In **Colombia** there are **two** types of **prostitution** trade **networks**: Ones which only works with women from within the country or **the regional area**, sending women to Venezuela, Ecuador and

Panama; the others deal on an exclusively **international** scale, providing Colombian women for the markets in Spain, Britain, Germany, Belgium and the United States.

Cases - At least one, and as many as four United States Marines assigned to the US. Embassy in Bogota are accused of assaulting a prostituted woman in December 1997. The woman was confined in a truck, and suffered severe bruises on her wrists, chest and knee from the attack. When she went to the Embassy to ask for compensation for injuries and loss of work, an official offered her \$150 in

exchange for not filing charges.

Child prostitution rings working in sex shops throughout Colombia were raided in September 1998, freeing 370 minors aged 12-16. Twenty-nine adults were arrested. The children were being held in slavery-like conditions, were abused and forced into prostitution. At least 145 of the children were found in Cartagena, a busy sex-tourist destination.

An undisclosed number of Zambian girls were ferried to Botswana, headed for the sex tourism industry in other countries.

Venezuela is a destination, transit, and source country for children trafficked for the purpose of sexual

exploitation. **Children** are trafficked internally for labor and sexual exploitation, as well as from other South American countries, especially Ecuador, to work in the capital city of Caracas as street vendors and domestics. There are also reports that children from Venezuela have been abducted and used as soldiers by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia domestic media spin suggests Cuba is trafficking teenage women to Venezuela Children from Ecuador are trafficked into Venezuela to serve as prostitutes and to work as street vendors and housemaids. They usually have been kidnaped, sold by their parents, or deceived by false

employment opportunities. Although first time **exploitation through prostitution** occurs on average at age 12, children as young as 7 are sexually exploited as

well. Of the **40,000** sexually exploited children in

Venezuela, **78%** are girls between **8** and **17**.

Thousands of Ecuadorian children are smuggled through Colombia and brought into Venezuela to work in virtual slavery conditions as prostitutes. The problem is attributed to corruption among Ecuadorian and Venezuelan officials, who are accused by many as covering-up.

In a misleading title Venezuelan tabloid El Mundo reads: report reveals sexual trafficking from Cuba to Venezuela.

The report does not offer proof or confirm the spin that the Cuban government is responsible for the trafficking, or maliciously that it forms part of the current cultural and economic agreement signed by Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez Frias.



**...testimonies
and
interviews...**

Wanted, dead or alive.....

This is part of interview with a Serb and an Albanian - Two human traffickers.

Enver (27) and **Donji** (34) are not alike in any way, but they certainly are a pair, a marriage of **two human traffickers**, functioning as smoothly as a Swiss clock; a match made in heaven or hell — depending on which side of the moral line you happen to be standing on ...

"It's a random condition of birth," says Enver, an Albanian father of three who sought asylum in the UK in the early 1990s under the guise of being a Kosovar. "If you are born into a country such as Macedonia or Albania, you are living like a pig and will do anything to get out. Even whore your child."

"We give them opportunities," says Donji, a Serbian father of four, also a graduate of Belgrade University in Serbia. "We say, you can sell your body here in Romania or the Ukraine or you can take your chances abroad where the sun shines ... Italy, France, Holland and especially South Africa. Right now, there is a big market in South Africa for young girls." "The worst thing you get in South Africa is a slap on the wrist," continues Enver. "Aliens are just thrown out again or you can buy the identity of someone ... Illegal immigrants are not unusual there." "What is really great is that gay marriages have been legalized in so few countries, but South Africa is one of them and this implies that there will be a big market for young boys too ..."

The market he speaks of is the sex-tourism industry, the driving thrust of the pornography that has seen low- to medium-level acceptance with the commercialization of reality TV shows such as *Girls of the Playboy Mansion*. The porn industry is worth more than \$17-billion in the US alone, with a market capitalization of well over \$150-billion worldwide — itself apart of and intimately linked to the organized crime syndicates that straddle both the underworld and that which lies at the surface.

So acceptable has the world of porn become that legitimate faces of the brand world such as General Motors, Kraft, Time Warner and other multinational conglomerates have moved the porn industry from the back alleys of orange- and khaki-colored streets to the glittering billboards of the big cities ... A source at the *Wall Street Journal* confirmed that more than 17% of companies listed on the NYSE were involved in the porn industry and invested (indirectly and directly) in the production, dissemination and distribution of explicit materials, including underage sex, trafficked humans and snuff movies.

The UN estimates that of the 27-million humans currently forced to live in a state of servitude, as sex slaves or on plantations, in the factories and sweatshops and free-trade zones — all of which have become the engine of modern globalize world — at least 1,2-million of these annually trafficked are children between the ages of nine and 14 years. In the Eastern European states, it is estimated that more than 200 000 kids simply disappear every year with less than one-10th resurfacing in Italy, France, Germany and Turkey — 18 months later, leading Interpol to believe that the human-trafficking industry specializes not only in the "forced" sale of humans, whether sexual or labor-wise, but also in much-needed parts: body parts.

"They are wanted dead or alive," says an official at Europol. "Of the 15 member states within the core of the EU, only four — and now I am pushing it — actually keep hard data or

statistics. They do not conduct investigations into the theft and sale of humans, they do not collate or swap information and there are no voices aggressively pushing for this to happen."

What are the causes that have contributed to the creation of such an environment of negligence and indifference?

"We can safely say that free trade and the IMF have marketed these countries as 'bargain regions' where everything is cheap.

"The EU has deliberately turned a blind eye to the situations in former communist countries. It might even be seen as an act of vengeance, but we must not exaggerate. These states bring in big money even if the people do not see it."

Who are the buyers? How are the kids procured?

"First part, very difficult to answer. Organized crime that takes the form of companies has a legal existence, zero taxation and free reign in such atmospheres of poverty and lawlessness. Multinationals do not stop at borders. These same crime syndicates are responsible for the money-laundering, drug- and human-trafficking industry. At the same time, they are involved in legitimate businesses ..."

He shakes his head, maybe a little weary of being interrogated on his holiday.

"You live in South Africa. Tell my why is your country — one of the top destination points in the world for human trafficking — not taking any strict measures?" "I will tell you," he continues, languidly drawing smoke his Camel, "it is because it goes all the way to the government, corruption, white-collar crime ... The writing is on the wall."

"For the second part," he stubs his cigarette out and leans back in the chair, breathing heavily, "let me say that the mothers and fathers in Albania and the Ukraine prefer to give the child away and take a chance, rid themselves of another mouth to feed because they know there is no future in the country. They want to give the child a chance. They do it selfishly."

As another official told me off the record, kids in the Ukraine simply evaporate.

An ex-official at Interpol who declined to be named said to me in an email: "This is not the EU at work but the overall system. The World Bank knows that there are over 170-million youth in Eastern Europe that are suffering from the reforms and the restructuring of the economy. The war in the Balkans has caused too many holes."

These reforms spoken of in hushed tones include the drastic reduction of government-funded health, education, pension and infrastructure as well as the implied restructuring that has seen the vicious targeting and dismantling of factories, trade unions, outsourcing and the policy of maintaining a casualised labor force.

Unicef estimates that this industry is worth more than \$12-billion.

"Sometimes parents sell their kid for a McDonald's burger or a color TV," says Enver, "and if the girl is a virgin, she sells for at least \$6 000 on the black market alone."

How much does he stand to make off one client?

"I can make anywhere between \$900 and \$1500 for quality flesh. "Donji is more pragmatic. "The UN soldiers are our biggest buyers everywhere from Georgia to Germany. "These parents have no business sense; they sell their kids on streets corners for €20 an hour. They don't even make the customers wear condoms. They don't live for too long, these kids ..."

They are caught between a rock and a hard place or maybe between a short death and a long one, with no one to protect them.

It reminds me of a book I once read that began with the words: "Who wants to be buried alive ..."



A copy of the death certificate.

Concentration Camp Details

The hospital site is 21,087 square meters, with 17,564 square meters of building area. It employs 460 people in 24 departments and 20 specialized offices. Information from the Chinese government shows that the hospital was established in December 1988, and was formerly named the Shenyang Research Institute of Thrombosis and Liaoning Province Thrombosis Treatment Center of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine. In June 1998, it was renamed China Traditional Medicine Thrombosis Treatment Center.

The Chinese Business Morning View said in a story on July 4, 2004, that a farm worker died of abnormal causes in Sujiatun, Shenyang and was later cremated. The death certificate was provided by the Chinese Medicine Thrombosis Treatment Center in Sujiatun. The news caused a stir in China.

Below is the transcript of an Epoch Times reporter's interview with the former staff member of the Liaoning Provincial Thrombosis Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine in Sujiatun, Shenyang City. Questions were posed by the reporter and answered by the staff member being interviewed.

Epoch Times: Did the hospital's medical staff inside the concentration camp know about this?

Answer: This hospital has a small number of officials and some doctors involved secretly in the operation of organ harvesting. Some other staff in the hospital knew about this, but this is absolutely a taboo. They all are afraid of being killed or courting trouble, so they all avoid the issue. Only those highly trusted doctors could be chosen to be the surgeons for organ harvesting operations.

ET: Were Falun Gong practitioners alive when their organs were harvested? Did their families know about this?

Answer: Falun Gong practitioners who were imprisoned there came mostly from Dubai Prison, Masanjia Labor Camp, and other prisons in Shenyang, or they were Falun Gong practitioners arrested in parks or residential homes. Because they refused to denounce Falun Gong, they were arrested without formal warrants, and their families did not know their situation. Many did not even have their names recorded. In addition, since the Chinese authority exercises a policy of "not being responsible" for killing Falun Gong practitioners, the death of Falun Gong practitioners is not a very big issue for prisons. The Chinese Communist Party persecutes Falun Gong, [but] these medical personnel were told Falun Gong practitioners were facing death because they killed people, or they were sentenced to death because of crimes, or they had become insane from practicing Falun Gong.

Those Falun Gong practitioners whose organs were harvested came from various places. Organs harvested from live bodies are worth far more than organs taken from dead bodies. Many Falun Gong practitioners were still alive when their organs were taken. After their organs were cut out, some of these people were thrown directly into the crematorium to be burnt, thus leaving no evidence. For some others, after their organs were stolen, the doctor sewed up the wound and asked the family or family representative to give a signature for cremation. Family members did not know at all that the dead had their organs taken out.

Furthermore, there were some healthy Falun Gong practitioners in prisons in other areas who were injected—without their knowledge—with psychoactive drugs that made their minds confused. They then were transferred to Sujiatun concentration camp to suffer further torture, till in the end their organs were harvested and their bodies were cremated in secret.

Among the Falun Gong practitioners whose organs were harvested, some were weak and some were healthy. Since most of them were illegally arrested, there were no arrest warrants or identification cards. After their organs were taken out while they were still alive, no one came to claim their bodies; or [sometimes] people using fake identities claimed their bodies. None of these people have come out [of the concentration camp] alive; three-quarters of these 6,000 people have died, having their hearts, kidneys, retinas, and skins harvested and their bodies disposed of. I think now about 2,000 Falun Gong practitioners are still in this hospital, and I am afraid now that the authority will destroy all evidence and kill them.

Question: How did you know these things? Were you yourself a doctor involved in organ harvesting?

Answer: I worked at the Liaoning Provincial Thrombosis Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine, Shenyang. This is exactly where this concentration camp is located. One of my family members was involved in the operation to harvest Falun Gong practitioners' organs. This has brought great pain to our family.

Question: Please tell us what you knew about.

Answer: From 2001, our hospital started to detain Falun Gong practitioners. At the beginning, these people were detained in the single-storey houses in the back yard of the hospital. Later, the hospital authorities demolished the single-storey houses, and it was unknown where in the hospital the Falun Gong practitioners were transferred. Many staff of the hospital discussed in private that these Falun Gong practitioners had been secretly transferred to the underground chambers of the hospital. According to some people working inside the hospital, the hospital has a huge system of secret underground chambers.

At the time when we went to work there, the person in charge of logistics and purchasing in the hospital said that the quantity of disposable sterile gloves used for operations and daily supplies that the hospital authorities asked to be purchased had increased dramatically. The logistics people estimated based on the scale of purchases at that time that there were at least 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners detained in this hospital.

These Falun Gong practitioners were not detained in the 4-story building under the in-patient department and administration at the front of the hospital, in order to keep the hospital staff from seeing them at all. We only occasionally saw Falun Gong practitioners being sent on a mobile intensive care bed to the first floor for physical examinations. These people were very weak. For the majority of the Falun Gong practitioners, nobody knew where they were being secretly kept. While they still did not know where these people were kept, some staff inquired to the hospital authorities about why so much food and so many sterile gloves and daily supplies were purchased. The hospital authorities said, "You only need to do your job well. There is no need for you to ask any other questions."

Starting in 2001, a family member of mine participated in organ-harvesting operations. My family member tried to keep me from knowing about this at the beginning. The hospital authorities selected doctors they trust in different aspects to perform the secretive operations. After a period of time, I found that my family member was in a lot of pain, often had nightmares, and appeared panic-stricken. After repeated inquiries, this family member told me the truth. The leader of the hospital had asked my family member to participate in the organ harvesting operations on Falun Gong practitioners as early as 2001. It was 2003 when my family member confessed. A few years after, my family member felt so much pain from participating in this incident that it was impossible to continue with the evildoing. My family member decided to go abroad to get away from this matter.

My family member also told me: "you don't understand my suffering; those Falun Gong practitioners were alive. It might be easier for me if they were dead, but they were alive."

Question: Were there any other doctors from the hospital taking part in the operations of cutting out Falun Gong practitioners' organs?

Answer: I know there were some. All these things have been carried out secretly. Many doctors at our hospital involved were practicum doctors transferred from other hospitals. Because the government does not want to be responsible for Falun Gong practitioners' bodies and lives, their

lives are treated as garbage by the regime, and their bodies were used in experiments by new doctors doing their practitcums.

Many doctors came and left the hospital because they suffered a lot after having been involved system, or their names were changed. Nobody knows where the doctors have gone. in these kinds of things. They either requested to be transferred to other places, or changed their names. Some might have been killed to eliminate the evidence, their identity files were taken out from the hospital's filing system, or their names were changed. Nobody knows where the doctors have gone. The hospital staff all knows that the rear part of the hospital is forbidden. It is always watched. The staff avoids talking about the place.

Question: It is said the hospital is equipped with an incinerator. The person whose organs were removed will be burned when he or she is still alive. Is that true?

Answer: The employees in our hospital call this place "the incinerator." Actually, it is a boiler room. Some poor farmers from nearby places were hired to work in the boiler room. They were penniless when they first came here. But they could scrape up some watches, finger rings, necklaces, and so on. The amount is not small. It is said by the employees in the hospital these jewelry and watches were collected from the Falun Gong practitioners whose organs had been removed when they were about to be thrown in the boiler to be burned. It is also said by the employees in the hospital, some were still alive when being thrown into the boiler.

Question: Do they get injection of anesthetic when in surgery?

Answer: Yes. There is a cap to the anesthetic quantity used in mainland China's hospitals. Generally, the supply of anesthetic was determined according to the accommodation of the hospital. To the public, the number of patients in our care appears to be very small, and publicly reported number of surgical procedures performed is quite low. But the equipment and articles used in surgery are abundant. Because the amount of anesthetic is limited, these secret surgeries could not use the normal anesthetic doses. In order to save anesthetic, they economized on the anesthetic used in surgeries on these Falun Gong practitioners. The amount of anesthetic used was very small. However, many whose organs were removed were still alive. You can imagine the pain suffered by the Falun Gong practitioners whose organs were removed.

Question: Are there any survivors among the 6,000 people detained since 2001?

Answer: Nobody has come out alive. The number of them gets smaller and smaller. The Falun Gong practitioners detained at Sujiatun are fewer now than before. But I believe that the sin of removing the organs of the Falun Gong practitioners is still continuing.

Question: Where are these organs usually sold to? Do the higher authorities in the government know about this?

Answer: They are mainly sold to Thailand, but I believe they are also sold to other regions of the world. Nowadays, there are many patients in China who need human skin, corneas, and kidneys for organ transplant surgeries. Many patients have to wait in line to purchase organs. Currently, a kidney can be sold up to the price of 30,000 to 100,000 US. dollars. The profit from selling organs is simply too great. The people who benefit from this are not only the top leaders of hospitals and the officials of the Chinese Communist Party's Health Department. This is a crime present across the entire nation. People ranging from government officials to doctors to organ sellers are all involved in this and are profiting greatly.

Question: Why did they target Falun Gong practitioners as the source of organs?

Answer: Because relatives of many Falun Gong practitioners don't even know that their family members were arrested. So if the Falun Gong practitioners are killed, there will be no one to come and claim their dead bodies.

Question: Why did you want to expose this? This may bring great danger to you.

Answer: I know that there are many Falun Gong practitioners who are currently detained at the hospital. I would like to expose this to the international community, so those who are not yet killed can be saved. Also, I would like to expose this as atonement for my family.

I am not a Falun Gong practitioner. But as a former staff member of the hospital, I have the responsibility to expose the truth, and let the world to save those Falun Gong practitioners who are still alive. Organs of some Falun Gong practitioners are still living on patients' bodies. I would like to call on all society to pay attention to this issue and stop this shocking crime.

Albania/Italy: Viola, a young Albanian, was 13 when she started dating 21-year-old Dilin, who proposed to marry her, then move to Italy where he had cousins who could get him a job. Arriving in Italy, Viola's life changed forever. Dilin locked her in a hotel room and left her, never to be seen again. A group of men entered, and began to beat Viola. Then, each raped her. The leader informed Viola that Dilin had sold her and that she had to obey him or else she would be killed. For seven days Viola was beaten and repeatedly raped. Viola was sold a second time to someone who beat her head so badly she was unable to see for two days. She was told if she didn't work as a prostitute, her mother and sister in Albania would be raped and killed. Viola was forced to submit to prostitution until police raided the brothel she was in. She was deported to Albania.

Kazakhstan/Russia: Sex trafficking at just 17-years-old, Maryam dreamed of a better future than her life in Kazakhstan. A man paid her parents \$300 and forged a passport so that she could work in Russia as a shop assistant. When she arrived in Russia, the shop turned out to be a locked cell with barred windows and a metal door. After the armed guards told her she would be used as a prostitute, rather than a shop assistant, she said: "I refused by saying that they could do anything they want, but I wouldn't be a prostitute. I was punished for that. I was beaten up, raped, and starved. In five days I gave up."

Central Africa: Mary, a 16-year-old demobilized child soldier forced to join an armed rebel group in central Africa, remembers: "I feel so bad about the things that I did. It disturbs me so much that I inflicted death on other people. When I go home I must do some traditional rites because I have killed. I must perform these rites and cleanse myself. I still dream about the boy from my village whom I killed. I see him in my dreams, and he is talking to me, saying I killed him for nothing, and I am crying."

Sri Lanka/Lebanon: Silvia was a young, single, Sri Lankan mother seeking a better life for herself and her three-year-old son when she answered an advertisement for a housekeeping job in Lebanon. In the Beirut job agency, her passport was taken and she was hired by a Lebanese woman who subsequently confined her and restricted her access to food and communications. Treated like a prisoner and beaten daily, Silvia was determined to escape. She jumped from a window to the street below, landing with such force that she is permanently paralyzed. She is now back in Sri Lanka. Today, she travels around the country telling her story so that others do not suffer a similar fate.

India: Shadir, a boy of 15 years, was offered a job that included good clothes and an education; he accepted. Instead of being given a job, Shadir was sold to a slave trader who took him to a remote village in India to produce hand-woven carpets. He was frequently beaten. He worked 12 to 14 hours a day and he was poorly fed. One day, Shadir was rescued by a NGO working to combat slavery. It took several days for him to realize he was no longer enslaved. He returned to his village, was reunited with his mother, and resumed his schooling. Now Shadir warns fellow village children about the risks of becoming a child slave.

Belarusia/Turkey: Svetlana was a young Belarusian living in Minsk and looking for a job when she came upon some Turkish men who promised her a well-paying job in Istanbul. Once Svetlana crossed the border, her passport and money were taken and she was locked up. Svetlana and another foreign woman were sent to the apartment of two businessmen and forced into prostitution. Svetlana had other plans: In an attempt to escape, she jumped out of a window and fell six stories to the street below. According to Turkish court documents, customers did not take Svetlana to the hospital, they called the traffickers instead. These events led to her death. Svetlana's body lay unclaimed in the morgue for two weeks until Turkish authorities learned her identity and sent her body to Belarus. But Svetlana did not die in vain. Belarusian and Turkish authorities cooperated effectively to arrest and charge those responsible for contributing to a death and for human trafficking.

Kirghiz Republic/U.A.E.: Sex Trafficking Alexia/23-years-old: "I answered a newspaper advertisement for a Russian-speaking waitress in the United Arab Emirates. When my plane landed, a man took me to an apartment where I met a dozen other women. I asked them if they all worked at the restaurant as waitresses. They laughed and one said: 'Restaurant? You're not going to work at a restaurant! You'll find out tonight where you are working! I was held in Dubai for six months and prostituted by the traffickers. I met a man from Moscow who helped me to escape to the Kirghiz Embassy.'"

Uzbekistan/ U.A.E. Lusa is a 17 year-old orphan kidnapped in 2004 from her native Uzbekistan. Lusa's aunt engineered her abduction to Dubai using a cousin's passport, because the aunt wanted to take Lusa's apartment. In Dubai, Lusa was sold to a slavery and prostitution ring. When she was no longer useable in prostitution, the traffickers sent her to a psychiatric center. An Uzbek NGO located her in Dubai. The NGO arranged to move her to a shelter, and they began working on her repatriation. Because she entered the U.A.E. illegally, on a false passport, the U.A.E. immigration service said she should serve a two-year prison sentence. Government officials and the enterprising NGO are negotiating Lusa's case.

Testimony of Viktoria, trafficked in Bosnia, originally from Bosnia

Viktoria, 20, was tempted by a 500 DEM a month job like a waitress two years ago but on the way to her new life, her employers handed her over to a bar owner. He had paid for her to work as his prostitute. Viktoria said: "I was locked in a tiny room with just a bed. The owner said, 'You owe me 5000 DEM and you will have sex with men whenever I tell you until you have repaid the debt.'" She entertained up to 15 men a day who paid as little as 4 DEM a time. She said: "Escape was out of the question. I had no money, no ID, I didn't even know which country I was in." Viktoria let herself get pregnant to try to escape. She refused to abort it and was sold on to a man who forced her to have sex with clients until days before the birth. She was back working again days later. About two months ago she escaped and contacted police. She said: "I'm one of the lucky ones." But she will always bear the scars. She said: "These gangsters forced me into being a whore. What am I supposed to tell my son when he grows up?"

Aly Diabate, trafficked in Mali, originally from Mali

Aly Diabate, who is from Mali, was eleven years old when he was lured in Mali by a slave trader to go work on an Ivorian farm. The locator told him that not only would he receive a bicycle, but he could also help his parents with the \$150 he would earn. However life on the cocoa farm of "Le Gros" (or "Big Man") was nothing like Aly had imagined. He and the other workers had to work from six in the morning to about 6:30 at night on the cocoa fields. Since Aly was only about four feet tall, the bags of cocoa beans were taller than him. To be able to carry and transport the bags, other people would have to place the bags onto his head for him. Because the bags were so heavy, he had trouble carrying them and always fell down. The farmer would beat him until he stood back up and lifted the bag again. Aly was beaten the most because the farmer accused him of never working hard enough. The little boy still has the scars left from the bike chains and cocoa tree branches that Le Gros used. He and the other slaves were not fed well either. They had to subsist on a few burnt bananas.

Yet when nightfall came, Aly's torture did not end. He and eighteen other slave workers had to stay in their one room that measured 24-by-20 feet. The boys all slept on a wooden plank. There was but one small hole just big enough to let in some air. Aly and the others had to urinate in a can, because once they went into the room, they were not allowed to leave. To ensure this, Le Gros would lock the room.

Despite the horrendous conditions that he was living in, Aly was too afraid to escape. He had seen others who had attempted escapes, only to be brutally beaten after they got caught. However one day, a boy from the farm successfully escaped and reported Le Gros to the authorities. They arrested the farmer and sent the boys back home. The police made Le Gros pay Aly \$180 for the eighteen months he had worked. Now Aly is back with his parents in Mali, but the scars, both physical and psychological still remain. He admitted that after he first came back from the farm, he had nightmares about the beatings every night. Aly was fortunate that the authorities were alerted about the slavery that was present at Le Gros' farm, but many other children are not as lucky and are still being subjected to the beatings and overall dehumanization on these cocoa farms. Exploitation like Aly's is able to exist because of the secretiveness of the abuse. The Ivorian farms are usually small and located in areas around which most people do not travel. In fact, many actors in the cocoa trade have never even visited these remote farms. Even if one were able to visit the farms, sometimes it is difficult to tell whether the children have been bought or are part of the family.

Natasha's Ordeal

When Natasha, not her real name, was 18 she wanted to leave Latvia and come to the UK to study. But her family in a rural part of the country could not afford that, so she found a job in a local café. One day one of her mother's friends told her that she knew people who were living in London and needed someone to help with their first baby.

Natasha was very interested - this was a way she could practice her English, live in the UK and send money home to provide medical care for her grandmother. Natasha spoke to the family in London on the telephone and they arranged for her flights and to collect her at the airport.

When she arrived at the airport, Natasha was collected by a man called Alex and taken to a flat somewhere in London. There was a heavily pregnant woman there, but as soon as Natasha arrived she disappeared. At this point Natasha began to feel uneasy. Alex raped Natasha and told her she was now a prostitute. He threatened to tell her grandmother that she was a prostitute.

After three months Alex sold her to a man called Dimitri for £3,000. He told her that she was now his girlfriend and he respected her. They then drove to Glasgow where he had some friends. Dimitri said she needed to remain as a prostitute so they could get a place of their own and save up for their future together. Devoid of hope, she agreed. Dimitri would drop her off and collect her from brothels in Glasgow. She was not allowed to socialize on her own, and would be beaten when she did. Once he beat her so badly she couldn't leave the house for weeks. An end to her tragedy only came after police raided a brothel while she was there.

Testimony of Cherry Kingsley, trafficked in Canada, originally from Canada

I am a survivor of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. I grew up in the sex trade in Canada from the age of 14- 22. During those eight years in the sex trade most of my friends died; they died from drugs, AIDS, violence, murder and some from suicide. I tell you this because I think that while we are here for 4 days we should be reminded of how serious the conditions are for children who are commercially sexually exploited. We are privileged to be in such a beautiful city in the comfort of nice hotels and beautiful meeting spaces to ponder our commitments to end the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children while millions of children live in horrific conditions without the chance to reflect or to give voice. Truly, our commitments must go beyond the issue and to the children themselves.

All of us here will say that Sexual Exploitation of Children is a heinous abuse and violation of children and their basic human rights as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. What we have to do is get beyond voicing outrage and move towards more practical and meaningful solutions. If we ever hope to affect the lives of children who have been sexually exploited and protect those most vulnerable, we must first understand the vulnerabilities of children and the experience of those whom have been exploited.

Crucial to this understanding is the voice of vulnerable and exploited children. I believe their voices must become central to our actions against the sexual exploitation of children. If you see us only as victims you have missed the point. We could be leaders, indeed many of us are. In my case I must thank the Government of Canada for their belief and support and Save the Children for their resources to enable me to have a voice and translate my experiences into actions.

Indeed there has been progress. The First World Congress brought the plight of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children into public view and put it onto government and international agendas. When I attended the First World Congress (I was sponsored by UNICEF) I was a rare voice of experience and I think standing here today without fear or shame symbolizes the movement from survivor/victim to healing and empowerment. But I also must acknowledge with sadness many millions of children who live in utter despair, and whose voices will never be heard and who will not survive their exploitation. I am an indigenous person of Canada. My culture has been an important part of my healing. We have a belief that children are born into the circle of family, community, culture and nation. We do not have to earn our right or be grateful for our place. We are not passive recipients but active important citizens and most importantly (often forgotten) members of the human race. We have another belief; when we come to the circle, behind us stand seven generations of our ancestors and before us stands seven generations of our future.

I then come to this circle and behind me stands seven generations of exploited children and unless we act before me also stand seven generations of children and youth who will be exploited.

Children are born looking to us with love and hope, whether we deserve it or not. When they are made vulnerable because they are poor, homeless, without family, hungry, abused, living in countries affected by war or discriminated because of race, gender or sexuality they still look to us with hope that we will protect them and that somehow somewhere they are cherished regardless of status or circumstance. Sadly, the commercial sexual exploitation of children is a part of the continuum we know as the sexual exploitation of children taking place in both the commercial and non-commercial in the family and the community. I think through concrete action we can honor that hope: Recognize those most vulnerable and protect them. When commercial sexual exploitation is happening develop respectful non-punitive interventions for children and hold those responsible for buying, selling, and facilitating the exploitation of children accountable We must stop jailing our exploited children Fund and resource exiting and healing programs for children and youth who are exploited. Fund and resource monitoring mechanisms. We must continually understand the effects of our efforts All commitments and actions must be visible, Government, NGOs, public and especially children need to know that we are committed to ending the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. We must send the message to the public and our children that we will not tolerate the children being exploited that we will help them rather than punish them. If children and youth hear this message perhaps they will not be so afraid to come forward and ask for help. Engage Young People in the development of law policy programs and services By supporting our Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth we send a message that we know what is happening, we are sorry we let you down and we care and we want you to be safe and free. If we ever hope to have peace in this world it will because we have raised our children knowing peace. There can never be peace without justice and human rights. There are no human rights or justice when our children are bought and sold to satisfy the greed and lust of adults. If we can convince through education and consequence, the adults to stop buying and selling our children, indeed half the battle is won. A young girl once told me that the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is a reflection of the sickness in the soul of society. We must help our children to be protected and those hurt to heal, and we must heal our own weaknesses that prevent us from protecting our children. That prevents us from protecting our children.

As we struggle for solutions to end the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, we may find that it is the children that have been exploited that show us the way."

Testimony of Shahnaj, trafficked in India, originally from Bangladesh

The harrowing tale of a teenaged Bangladeshi girl being forced into prostitution in Mumbai by a gang of Indian traffickers who trapped her by faking a marriage has come to light.

Rescued recently from a Mumbai brothel by an NGO of Madhyamgram in North 24-Parganas, Shahnaj Khatun is now six months pregnant and a nervous wreck. All the travails she has undergone are write large on her pale face and she shudders even as she recounts what she has been through.

She made at least three attempts to escape, but her tormentors always managed to outwit her and put her back in the flesh trade. Her story also lays bare the apathy of the police and the administration in Mumbai, and in North 24-Parganas who made little effort to help her.

Shahnaj, who was brought over to a news conference today by the center for communication and development Nari Viksh Kendra (CCD-NVK), the Madhyamgram based NGO, looked dazed and too feeble to speak. On her behalf, Ms. Mamtaz, the NGO spokesperson, narrated the weird details of the poor girl's journey through horror.

It was sometime in 1996 that one Mohammed Abdul Hossain, a resident of Deganga in North 24-Paraganas, approached Shahnaj's widowed mother at the latter's humble home at Ratanpur in Satkhira district in Bangladesh with proposal of the girl's marriage to his son, Zahirul.

The Indian citizen was a frequent visitor to Bangladesh, and owns houses there. After her mother agreed to his proposal, Shahnaj was brought to Hossain's place at Khajurdana in the Deganga Thana area where the marriage was solemnized.

Three months later, the girl was taken to Mumbai where her husband Zahirul got her engaged in the flesh trade.

Later she was sold to Sahauddin, a cousin of Zahirul and also a trafficker, for 7,000 rupees. Shahnaj was instructed to come back after a certain period.

She did not. Shahnaj said that even in she was being engaged in the flesh trade by her new buyer, she preferred to be with him instead of Zahirul. But Zahirul had other ideas. "One day he came over to my new place with a posse of policemen and the police booked me as an illegal immigrant," she said. After she had spent 17 days in a Mumbai jail, the police took her to the patrolled border in North 24-Parganas and left her in an open field. Caught by the Bangladesh Rifles, she landed in jail in Jessore. On her release, Shanaj found herself again in the clutches of Zahirul who had somehow managed to secure her release. Shahnaj was trapped again.

Fortunately for the girl, Feroza Bibi, younger sister of Zahirul, chose to go against her father and brothers and contacted the CCD-NVK. A rescue team from the NGO went to Mumbai and brought her over to Calcutta earlier this month. Now an uncertain future lies ahead of her, unless the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Calcutta takes care of her. Mr. Swapan Mukherjee, CCD-NVK secretary, alleged that many more girls were being regularly smuggled into this country and being engaged in the flesh trade in Mumbai, Chennai and Uttar Pradesh. In the last five years, the CCD-NVK had rescued over 300 such girls and restored them to their families.

Testimony of Marina, trafficked in Spain, originally from the Dominican Republic

It was an offer she couldn't refuse: a job as a maid in Spain for \$200 a week. But when Marina Urena arrived in Madrid, she was taken to a bar and forced to become a sex slave.

Back home in the Dominican Republic, Urena tells her story to warn other young women who are recruited to work in Europe. Despite the risk, thousands go...

"Even when they know the dangers, girls are still eager to go because poverty is so miserable," said Urena, whose plight was mirrored this week at a UN conference on the trafficking of Latin America women to Europe.

At home, Urena struggled to feed three children. Her husband had left her. She made \$25 a week by taking in washing, cleaning homes by day and dancing in a bar at night.

One night, a Dominican man named Antonio told her she could get better work in Spain. She quickly accepted. "Nobody made that much money here—not a doctor, not a lawyer. How could I say no?" Urena said.

But the Swiss pimps who met her at the Madrid airport took away her immigration papers and enslaved her at a bar called Casa Blanca. They demanded that she sell drugs and alcohol to her clients or risk more beatings.

Urena was trapped for a year. She escaped with the help of a Dominican sailor, who smuggled her aboard his ship.

When she came back—six years ago—Urena reported the people who had helped enslave her to police. But nothing was done. So in recent years, she has worked with other entrapped women, social workers and prostitutes to set up two organizations in the Dominican Republic that counsel people about the dangers of the illicit traffic in women...

"I had a bad experience. I was unlucky. That's what they tell me when I try to warn others not to go," Urena said, her eyes reddening with tears. "Other women come back and build houses, buy cars, flash their jewelry..."

Testimony of Vi, trafficked to American Samoa originally from Vietnam

"My name is Vi. And I am 28 years old. I arrived in American Samoa on July 22nd, 1999. Two other groups of Vietnamese workers had been brought to this island before us. When I signed the contract to a Company 12, they told me that I would go to the U.S. And its Deputy Director promised that I would get paid \$408 a month. I had to borrow \$4,000 to pay to Company 12 and another \$2,000 to pay the company official in charge of recruitment.

We were taken to American Samoa and not the U.S. As soon as we landed our passports were confiscated. At a Daewoosa shop, I had to work from 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. and sometimes to 7 a.m. the next day, and also on Saturdays and Sunday without being paid. We had no money to buy food, amenities or soap. We had to pay \$200 for room and board, which they said that they would provide according to the contract.

Meals at Daewoosa consisted of a few cabbage leaves, potatoes cooked with a lot of water. Those who were at the head of the line could get some cabbage and potato, later comers got only water. Hungry, we planted some vegetables to supplement our meals, but Mr. Lee, President of Daewoosa, destroyed our garden. Undernourished, I lost 35 pounds within 1 year. Working and living conditions at Daewoosa were very suffocating. There was no air ventilation. Workers slept right next to each other. The temperature in the rooms sometime went up to over 100 degrees. We were not allowed to step out for fresh air. The supervisor even kept count on how many times we went to the toilet.

We lived 36 people in one room. Another worker and I share one tiny bed. We can only sleep on our side, we can't—if we lay on our back, we would pile on top of each other.

Most of us were women. At night Mr. Lee often came into our room and lay next to whoever he liked. He called pretty ones into his office and forced them to have sex with him. Three women have publicly denounced him for that. Once, several of his customers arrived in American Samoa. Mr. Lee pressed several female workers to sleep with them. They resisted. At the workplace, he regularly groped and kissed female workers in front of everyone.

There were three among us who were pregnant women. Mr. Lee demanded that they have an abortion. He fired them when they refused. Evicted from Daewoosa, they had to seek refuge at a local church. Movement at Daewoosa was very restricted. American Samoan guards searched everyone leaving the compound. Female workers were groped all over their bodies. Those who protested were strip-searched. Those coming back from the compound after 9 p.m. were beaten up. I was once slapped. Mr. Lee used big American Samoan guards to terrorize us. Once several workers because they were not paid, staged a strike. He threatened that he would send these guards to short-circuit electric cables and cause a fire to kill us all. Everyone was fearful because two female workers, Nga and Dung, involved in the lawsuits against Mr. Lee had just disappeared.

On November 23 of last year, there was a dispute between the supervisor and a female worker. Mr. Lee ordered the supervisor: "If you beat her to death, I will take the blame." The supervisor dragged the female worker by the chest. Other workers came to her rescue. The American Samoan guards, already holding sticks and scissors, jumped in and beat them. Everyone was so frightened. We ran for our lives. Mr. Lee ran after to beat the fleeing workers. We were terrorized for days after that.

The guards paid special attention to the five or six workers known to have supported the lawsuit against Mr. Lee. They beat them the hardest. Ms. Quyen, the key witness in this lawsuit, was held by her arms on two sides by two guards. A third guard thruster a pointed stick into her eyes. As a result, she lost sight of one eye.

A guard beat a male worker with a stick, breaking his front teeth and bleeding his mouth.

Another male worker was pinned down to the floor and repeatedly beaten at his temple. His blood was spilling all over the floor. The next day, the FBI agent took pictures of the bloodstains.

During the assault, Daewoosa's lawyer and the police were there but did nothing. Only when the lawyer representing the workers showed up did the guards stop the beating.

From 1999 to the above incident, Tour Company 12 and the International Manpower Supply, another Vietnamese company hiring workers for Daewoosa, forced us to continue working without pay and threatened to send us back to Vietnam if we disobeyed. Everyone was deeply in debt. If we got sent back, how could we pay our debt?

Since my arrival to the U.S., I have sent every dollar earned back to Vietnam to pay my debt. However, this has barely made a dent because the interest rate is so high, 50 percent. My parents in Vietnam are very worried. Their hair turned all gray. They told me that it is fortunate that I have come to the U.S.; otherwise, we would be in a hopeless situation.

If sent back, it would be hard for me to find employment. My previous workplace will not take me back. Because of my involvement in the prosecution of Mr. Lee, I am afraid of running into trouble with the government if repatriated to Vietnam. I am getting used to life in the U.S. Here I am free to choose where I want to work. If dissatisfied with one workplace, I can always go to another one.

I have been thoroughly helped in my first step toward a normal life, and I find everyone to be very kind. I now live with a Vietnamese family without having to pay rent. That family offers me employment. They take care of my food, transportation and other things. They also give me a phone card to call my family in Vietnam once a week.

I have received a certification letter from the Department of Health and Human Services for public benefits. I have a temporary visa which will expire on October 30, 2002, and a work permit. I work at a nail salon in DC to pay my debts. If allowed to remain in the U.S., I would like to go back to school because in Vietnam I had to stop schooling at 7th grade. I also wish to be reunited with my child left behind in Vietnam.

Testimony of Ramona, trafficked in Macedonia, France & Italy, originally from Romania

A sex slave aged 15 can be bought for as little as 3500 Euros it emerged, after a Romanian girl who had been prostituted across Europe escaped her Albanian captors while working in a sauna in one European Capital.

Her "owner" had pocketed up to 1500 Euros a day as he made her work in brothels for up to 20 hours at a time, seven days a week, and beat her if she resisted. Ramona's fate was revealed at a trial last month. The jury was told that she was aged only 12 when her mother died. Ramona's father turned to the bottle and, in violent tempers, repeatedly slapped her. A cousin arranged for a friend to help Ramona to leave Romania to start a new life in Yugoslavia in apparent safety. But she came to the notice of Eastern European people-traffickers and soon she was forced to become a "dancing girl" in a nightclub in the south of the FYR of Macedonia, where, for six months, her duties included stripping and having sex with clients. She escaped this club when she was purchased, without her knowledge, by Zeqri, an Albanian pimp, for 4000 DEM. Ramona was forced to travel to Albania and, from there, was dumped in an inflatable boat for the journey across the Adriatic Sea to Italy. In Naples she had to work as a prostitute until one day she was made to get into the back seat of a car, where Zeqri was waiting for her. A stranger to Ramona, Zeqri put a hand over her mouth, told her not to scream, and pretended that he was rescuing her. He took Ramona to Rome, purchased false Italian identity documents for her that cost 3000 Euros, then arranged for her to join his family in Paris.

Ramona, still only 15, arrived in Paris on a train from Rome as an Italian tourist in July last year and was met by Zeqri's relatives at one of Paris railway stations. Zeqri followed her in to France. The girl's hopes of escape were shortlived. Zeqri, an asylum-seeker, soon insisted that she should return to prostitution. Ramona asked if she could just strip instead, but he complained that she would make too little money.

"I didn't have any choices because I couldn't do anything," the sobbing girl told the jury at Zeqri's trial, giving evidence from behind a screen. Zeqri arranged for her to be given false documents, suggesting that she was a qualified masseuse. He forced her to telephone saunas and massage parlours, finding the numbers from the back pages of some magazine. He drove her to and from work, pocketing the cash that she was paid. "I was working morning, afternoon and evening. Sometimes I would get home at 7am and would have to start work again at 11am," Ramona said. "I hated all the men I was working for. But if you didn't do what they were saying they would always get angry and hit you and swear at you." After Zeqri hit her she would cover the bruising with make-up and go to work again. She escaped after a brothel maid encouraged her to run away. Ramona fled a sauna at midnight, although her shift was due to end at 4am. She spent the night in a safe house and then went to police.

"The girls were talking one afternoon about other girls. They had left, they had married, they had families and were happy," she said. "I asked if the police helped you in these cases and they said they did; that they would help you get away from it and start a new life. This girl, Missa, said that if I ever needed to get away she would help."

Prosecutors were unable to find any law against Zeqri trafficking the girl as a sex slave, except for living off immoral earnings, which usually carries a two-year jail sentence. Because the pair entered France separately, Zeqri could not be prosecuted for facilitating her illegal entry, the anti-trafficking charity said. Sentencing has been delayed until later this year...

Testimony of Rosa, trafficked to USA, originally from Mexico

When I was fourteen, a man came to my parents' house in Vera Cruz, Mexico and asked me if I was interested in making money in the United States. He said I could make many times, as much money doing the same things that I was doing in Mexico. At the time, I was working in a hotel cleaning rooms and I also helped around my house by watching my brothers and sisters. He said I would be in good hands, and would meet many other Mexican girls who had taken advantage of this great opportunity. My parents didn't want me to go, but I persuaded them.

A week later, I was smuggled into the United States through Texas to Orlando, Florida. It was then the men told me that my employment would consist of having sex with men for money. I had never had sex before, and I had never imagined selling my body. And so my nightmare began. Because I was a virgin, the men decided to initiate me by raping me again and again, to teach me how to have sex. Over the next three months, I was taken to a different trailer every 15 days. Every night I had to sleep in the same bed in which I had been forced to service customers all day.

I couldn't do anything to stop it. I wasn't allowed to go outside without a guard. Many of the bosses had guns. I was constantly afraid. One of the bosses carried me off to a hotel one night, where he raped me. I could do nothing to stop him. Because I was so young, I was always in demand with the customers. It was awful. Although the men were supposed to wear condoms, some didn't, so eventually I became pregnant and was forced to have an abortion. They sent me back to the brothel almost immediately. I cannot forget what has happened. I can't put it behind me. I find it nearly impossible to trust people. I still feel shame. I was a decent girl in Mexico. I used to go to church with my family. I only wish none of this had ever happened.

Testimony of Tamara, trafficked in United Arab Emirates (UAE), originally from Armenia

"I was working as a waitress in a café. When the café closed one of the regular clients saw me in the street and said that she was going to Dubai. She said there was a lot of work in cafes, bars and restaurants where I could get a better job and salary. The proposal seemed very attractive and I agreed to go. When I went to her house I met another woman there. The woman told me that she was taking a group of women while it was easier to arrange. As I did not have money she paid the ticket for me and gave me US\$200 to leave behind for my family. She also took me to the hairdresser and dentist and bought me a dress. She said that I needed to look good in order to get a high salary. We traveled directly from Yerevan. All our documents had been changed. She paid the officials at the passport agency to get new passports for us, because all of us were younger than 30. One was even 17. At the airport everybody knew her, the police, customs and border guards.

"From that day on my misery started...I had no right to be sick, I had no right to refuse or choose."

"When we arrived in Dubai one of the women had a problem with her invitation. After a conversation of ten minutes and a phone call to some place all problems were settled and they let us out of the airport. She took us to Sharjah to a small hotel that allegedly she had completely reserved for us. We stayed there for three days. Our documents were given to the receptionist at the hotel. On the fourth day she said that she could not keep us in this hotel, as it was too expensive. She moved us to a very cheap hotel and told us to stay there and receive our clients. When I heard the word 'clients' I was so surprised. I was prepared to work as a waitress. I asked the other woman what they thought about it. Nobody wanted to talk.

"The next day our 'organizer' came accompanied by an Arab man. They explained to us that we had been sold to him and if we did not do what we were told he could do with us whatever he wished. It is his country and everybody would believe him. Police or immigration officials would not accept complaints. Everybody used his services and they were all his friends. "From that day on my misery started: he was sending around 50 clients a day, sometimes even more. I did not understand what was happening. I had no right to be sick, I had no right to refuse or choose. I do not know how he had established the terrible conveyor but the line did not stop. Though we lived in the same hotel with other women from Armenia who had come at the same time, we almost did not communicate.

"When we had couple of minutes in the morning everyone was telling the horrible situation they went through and more horrible stories of other women, especially those from Russia. They told that they had found one young beautiful girl who had committed suicide in her room."The body disappeared the same day. No police came. Next day another woman was living in her room. Nothing happened. Later our 'boss' always presented her example to us, telling that other pimps were so merciless.

"Once I got so sick that I could not even move, but the pimp wouldn't pay attention to me and kept on sending clients to me. I do not know how I got through that day. I was feeling so hopeless that I decided to die. I thought that whatever I would tell at home, whatever kind of excuses I would offer to my parents and son, nobody would believe and forgive me.

I went to the balcony, thinking that throwing me out would solve all problems. Immediately I was called in as the next client came.

"If I did not get terribly sick I would never see my home. I told the pimp that I needed to see a doctor, but she said that it was very expensive and I could not afford it. The next day I was so weak that I could not even stand. I asked the receptionist to call the pimp. She came with a doctor, who said that I needed some medicines for the moment and an operation later on. I asked for my documents to go home but the pimp said that I could not go and would take care of me there."Time passed by and she kept sending more and more clients to me, so that my health condition became worse. I had no choice, I called my mother and told her to go to the house of the pimp together with police, and tell her relatives that if she did not give my passport to me in Dubai the Yerevan police would put her relatives in jail. That threat worked out; she gave me my passport and a ticket and I came back home."

Testimony of Karin, trafficked to Singapore, originally from Sri Lanka

Karin, a young mother of two, was looking for a job in Sri Lanka when a man befriended her and convinced her that she could land a better job in Singapore as a waitress. He arranged and paid for her travel. A Sri Lankan woman met Karin upon arrival in Singapore, confiscated her passport, and took her to a hotel. The woman made it clear that Karin had to submit to prostitution to pay back the money it cost for her to be flown into Singapore. Karin was taken to an open space for sale in the sex market where she joined women from Indonesia, Thailand, India, and China to be inspected and purchased by men from Pakistan, India, China, Indonesia and Africa. The men would take the women to nearby hotels and rape them. Karin was forced to have sex with an average of 15 men a day or night. She developed a serious illness, and three months after her arrival was arrested by the Singaporean police during a raid on the brothel. She was deported to Sri Lanka.

The publication is a result of a research project . All used texts are taken from Internet, reports of various organizations and books concerning human trafficking. I apologize for any possible mistakes.

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