

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Co-Sponsored by:

- *Sisters of the Divine Savior*
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1

This issue highlights some of the many books, videos, study materials, hearings, and academic courses covering topics related to human trafficking.

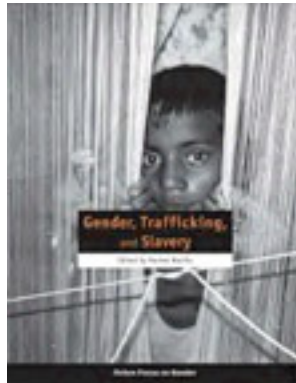
Vol. 3 No.2 February 15, 2005

Gender, Trafficking and Slavery

explores areas of human experience that are highly complex, and which evoke powerful and contradictory feelings amongst those attempting to understand them. Although many view the institution of slavery as a purely historical phenomenon, slavery remains widespread today. It takes many forms, often clandestine. One aspect of modern slavery that elicits particular revulsion is the trafficking of women and young girls and boys into the sex industry, and this is the focus of many of the authors in this book.

Gender, Trafficking, and Slavery examines the operations of trafficking and other kinds of 'modern-day'

slavery, from a gender perspective. It explores the relationships between gender, poverty, conflict, and globalization that are driving today's slave trade. The authors provide an overview of what trafficking and



slavery are, their magnitude, and their complexity. They introduce the key debates, competing definitions, and conceptual divides within this controversial subject. In their search for solutions, the contributions expose the weaknesses in national and international legal frameworks intended to protect bonded workers and trafficked persons. They analyze and assess the attempts of development and human rights organizations to support those at risk, to create alternative livelihood options for them, and to help those who escape to rebuild their lives.

Rachel Masika (Ed.), July 2002

Oxfam Publishing

Paperback, 95pp. (ISBN: 0855984783)

Bought & Sold: An Investigative Documentary About the International Trade in Women

This 42-minute 1997 documentary, produced and directed by Witness Director Gillian Caldwell while she was co-director of the *Global Survival Network (GSN)*, is based on a two-year undercover investigation conducted by GSN into the illegal trafficking in women from the former Soviet Republics.

In addition to interviewing nongovernmental organizations, women who had been trafficked abroad, and police and government officials in many countries, GSN established a dummy company that purportedly special-

ized in importing foreign women as escorts and entertainers. The company was "based" in the United States and claimed to specialize in foreign models, escorts, and entertainers. Under that guise, GSN gained entry to the shadowy operations of international trafficking and produced the documentary film, *Bought & Sold*, which gives an insider's perspective on how the international trade in women actually works.

Operating through nominally reputable employment agencies, entertainment companies, or marriage

agencies, criminal traffickers mislead and manipulate women. In the most extreme cases, the perpetrators buy and sell women and girls as if they were objects.

GSN defines trafficking as all acts involved in the recruitment or transportation of a woman within or across national borders, for work or services, by means of violence or threat of violence, debt bondage, deception, or other coercion. *Purchase price: \$50.*

Ordering information:
<http://www.witness.org>



Awareness

Stolen Childhoods

Len Morris and Robin Romano spent four years filming 400 hours of footage to produce a film of 80 minutes entitled, *Stolen Childhoods*. The stunning documentary, which explores the dangerous, and often deadly, epidemic of child labor in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal and the United States, premiered Oct. 25, 2004 at the United Nations Association Film Festival in Palo Alto, CA.

The film's mission – to put a human face on the world's 246 million child laborers - exposes the dark underworld of child labor—from the claustrophobic rug looms of India, to the sweltering coffee fields of Kenya, to the filthy dump-sites of Indonesia. There, children as young as 7 toil from sunup to sundown for pennies a day—or nothing at all.

"We're not talking about a part-time job," said Morris, producer and director. "Child labor is work that removes any possibility of kids going to school, and guarantees that they will be unable to improve their lives by breaking the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that has trapped their families for generations."

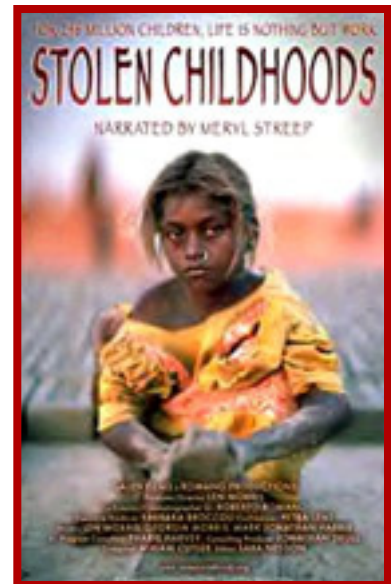
"Eliminating child labor is not only an obligation for nations like Mexico, Pakistan, and Brazil; it must also be the responsibility of the U.S.," said Morris. Each spring, summer, and fall, an estimated 800,000 children migrate with their families across the U.S., picking vegetables. Up to 65 percent of these children drop out of school.

"The United States has signed an international agreement not to expose children to workplace hazards—heavy machinery, pesticides, working seven days a week—yet the children picking our vegetables are doing precisely

that," Morris said. "We have child labor, and we have it big time."

Children are shown working in dumps, quarries, brick kilns, making charcoal, on fishing platforms, picking tobacco, coffee or vegetables, working in sweatshops, as domestics, making rugs, and selling their bodies on the street. "The world recognizes this is

Stolen Childhoods
cont. pg. 4



Born Into Brothels

The most stigmatized people in Calcutta's red light district, are not the prostitutes, but their children. In the face of abject poverty, abuse, and despair, they have little possibility of escaping their mother's fate or for creating another type of life.

In *Born into Brothels*, directors Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman chronicle the amazing transformation of the eight children they come to know in the red light district. Briski, a professional photographer, gives them lessons and cameras, igniting latent signs of artistic genius in these children,



part of a seemingly hopeless world.

The photographs taken by the children are not merely examples of remarkable observation and talent; they reflect something much larger, morally encouraging, and even politically volatile: art as an immensely liberating and empowering force.

The children's future is at the heart of the film: will the girls follow their mothers? And the boys? Many of their fathers are drug addicts, or absent. Most of the women had been forced into prostitution by poverty, drug addiction, or through being trafficked from Bangladesh or Nepal. Yet, the stigma against prostitution is so great, that women who are HIV+ are driven from their homes or stoned to death.

Devoid of tourist sentimentality, *Born into Brothels* received an Oscar nomination for *Best Documentary*.

Kids With Cameras, a nonprofit organization dedicated to showcasing children's work and generating interest in their struggle for an education, is planning to build a boarding school in Calcutta for such red light children.

<http://www.globalvisionsfestival.com/2004/>



Awareness

The Day My God Died

is a feature-length documentary that presents the stories of young girls whose lives have been shattered by the child sex trade. This unforgettable examination of the growing plague of sex slavery weaves footage from Bombay brothels with stories of young girls who are taking action to stop the child sex industry. They describe the day they were abducted from their village and sold into sexual servitude as *"the day my god died."*

The Day My God Died provides actual footage from the brothels of Bombay, known even to tourists as *"The Cages,"* captured with "spy camera" technology. It weaves the stories of girls, and their stolen hopes and dreams, into an unforgettable examination of the growing plague of child sex slavery.

Through the film we come to know victims such as Gina, sold into sex slavery at age 7 and beaten with sticks and aluminum rods. Anita, lured by a friend then drugged and sold at age 12, was beaten and threatened that she would be buried alive. Girls are gang-raped, beaten and forced to service up to 20 clients a day as they are held in perpetual sexual servitude.

The film also introduces us to the heroes of the movement to abolish child sex slavery – non-profit organizations that rescue and care for former slaves. Some victims have emerged to form their own underground railway out of slavery. Maili, trafficked at 19 along with her infant daughter, risks her life to help other girls. We see Jyoti, sold at age 12, lead a raid on a brothel resulting in the rescue of seven girls and the arrest of two brothel owners.

Children are the commodity consumed by the voracious and sophisticated international sex trade. Recruit-

ers capture them, smugglers transport them, brothel owners enslave them, corrupt police betray them and customers rape and infect them. Every person in the chain profits except for the girls, who pay the price with their lives. Sexual servitude is a virtual death sentence. In Bombay alone, 90 new cases of HIV are reported every hour and the girls suffer an 80% HIV/AIDS infection rate.

The Day My God Died documents the tragedy of child sexual slavery and profiles the courageous abolitionists that need our support.

Potential audiences:

- Public policy makers, including elected officials and government agencies that monitor U.S. policy on child sex trafficking
- Organizations that work on human rights, women's rights, child welfare, public health and global relief
- The faith-based community

- Direct service organizations that work with trafficked women and girls
- Students in women's studies, international affairs, law, public policy and Asian studies programs
- Male offenders of violence against women and men's awareness groups
- Travel agents and professionals in the international tourism industry
- Law agencies responsible for enforcing sex trafficking laws

VHS copies are presently for sale. (DVD copies will be available later.)

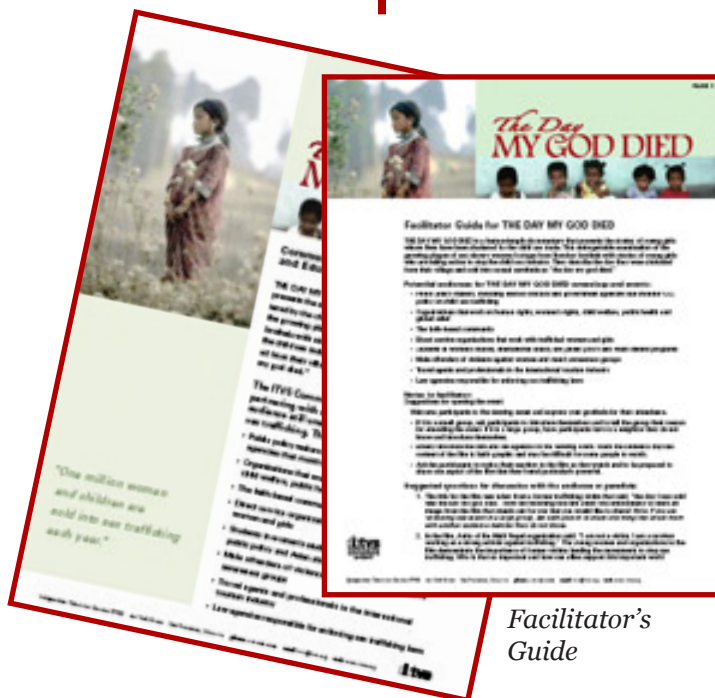
Home-setting, personal copy: \$30 + \$3.85 shipping = \$33.85

Educational copies (for Universities, non profits, corporations, and all other groups):

\$125 + \$3.85 shipping = \$128.85

Send check and delivery address to:

Andy Levine
1085 Abilene Way
Park City, Utah 84098



Facilitator's Guide



Awareness

Human Story Inside Trafficking

The Natashas by Victor Malarek and *Woman, Child for Sale* by Gilbert King, highlight the complexities of human trafficking and show graphically how misjudgments and demand-side behavior preys on innocent victims.

King, a journalist from New York, writes about human slavery in broad strokes with reference to much historical data. He recounts the plight of domestic workers and points to the complex reasons for why there is not more public outcry about this violation of human rights.

Malarek focuses on trafficking of women from former Soviet states, showing how criminality drives the supply-side of the commercial sex trade. Many people believe women choose to leave impoverished places to work as prostitutes or lap dancers in order to better themselves.

Malarek argues that unscrupulous deception and violence by thugs, not choice, is more of the driving force. He recounts how women from Eastern Europe, especially from rural areas, respond to ads promising respectable jobs in countries where they can make a decent wage.

Once they permit advertisers to pay for their airline tickets and handle their visas, the first step into slavery has begun. On their arrival in Bosnia, or Serbia, or other countries, thugs may seize their documents, lock them in apartments, beat them senseless, and threaten their families: all to coerce them into prostitution.

Referred to as the “*Natashas*” such young women suddenly find themselves without any protection. They have no passports and are guarded with guns. They’re told that local police work with the traffickers. Serbs

beheaded a Ukrainian woman in front of her fellow prisoners to enforce their fear.

Malarek recounts that in Belgrade, apartments exist in which as many as 50 to 100 young foreign women suffer as slaves. They’re forced to strip for inspection by traffickers who buy and smuggle them to brothels in Kosovo, Greece, Israel and the United States.

Both Malarek and King point to remedies. Corrupt police must be held accountable for tolerating rape and slavery, since prostituted women are primarily victims. Corrupt peacekeepers must be stopped from converting ‘humanitarian’ missions into sex tourism in places such as Bosnia. Malarek reports Bosnia has 260 bars housing up to 5,000 Eastern European women “*who are nothing more than playthings for the international soldiers and staff.*”

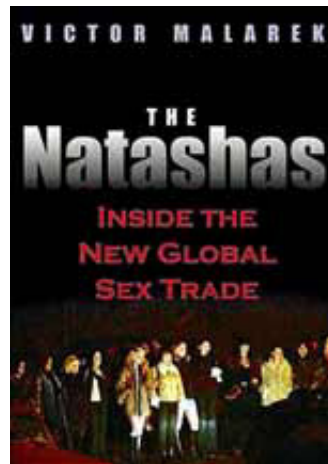
(Excerpted: <http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/entertainment/books/9927023.htm>)

The Natashas

Inside the New Global Sex Trade

By Victor Malarek

Arcade. 303 pgs. \$25.



Woman, Child for Sale

The New Slave Trade in the 21st Century

By Gilbert King

Penguin. 232 pgs. \$9.95

Stolen Childhoods

cont. from pg. 2

a waste of human potential,” he said. “We have the responsibility to end child labor.”

Stolen Childhoods is told primarily in the words of laboring children. It also gives voice to their parents, to people working daily to help them, the policy makers and government officials. The film places these children’s stories in the broader context of the worldwide struggle against child labor. *Stolen Childhoods* provides an understanding of the causes of child labor, what it costs the global community, how it contributes to global insecurity and what it will take to eliminate it.

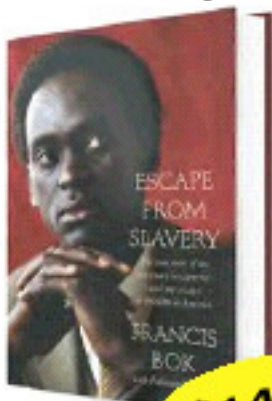
The film shows best practice programs that remove children from work and put them in school. The programs range from efforts to save migrant children from toxic exposure to pesticides, to *Bolsa Escola*, a model Brazilian educational subsidy, now in place in seven other countries, that reimburses families for wages lost when children go to school.

By featuring programs that have successfully reduced or ended child labor, Morris hoped the film would not only inspire individuals, but also entire countries to take action that could save the lives of the world’s most vulnerable children.



Advocacy

Escape from Slavery Autobiography of Francis Bok



\$14.00

Bok wrote, "He looked at me and said, 'You want to know why no one loves you and why you must sleep with the animals?...because you ARE an animal.' ...I now knew that life would never get better for me with these people. I would have to find a way to leave. That was the moment I began planning my escape."

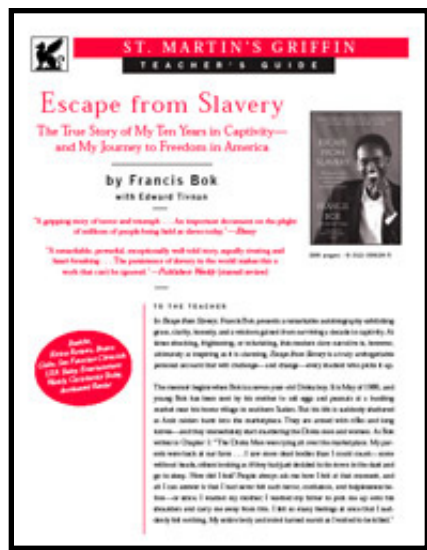
This true story of modern-day slavery and escape to freedom offers a first-hand account of the physical and psychological experience of being a slave in the 21st century.

As a young boy in Sudan, Francis Bok was abducted by Arab militiamen and held as a slave for the next ten years. His daring escape in 1996 began a chain of events that ultimately led to his emergence as a leader of the abolitionist movement.

Entertainment Weekly gave the book an "A" rating. The *Houston Chronicle* called it one of the "100 Biggest and Best Titles for Fall." In 2004, the book won the Suze Orman Award for *Best Book by a New Author*.

iAbolish.com is now selling *Escape from Slavery* in paperback, for \$14, including shipping.
<http://www.iabolish.com/index.htm>
<https://secure.ga3.org/02/escape>

Holtzbrinck Publ. offers educators free *Teacher's Guides*. To receive a copy of Francis Bok, *Escape from Slavery* 0-312-33760-4 (or any of the guides), e-mail a request to:
academic@hholt.com;
fax to: 212-645-2610; or mail to:
Holtzbrinck Academic Marketing,
115 West 18th Street, 6th floor
New York, NY 10011.



Free *Teacher's Guide*
from Holtzbrinck Publishers.

Midwest Trafficking Awareness Seminar Planned

The *Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate* will host a two-hour seminar on April 2, 2005.

Stella Storch, OP, Justice Coordinator for the *Sisters of St. Agnes*, will use a variety of media to raise the awareness of her audience to the reality of human trafficking.

The seminar will be held at the University of St. Francis, 500 N. Wilcox Street in Joliet, Illinois. Registration, with refreshments and a chance to network, opens at 9 a.m. The program begins at 10 a.m.

For more information and to reserve a place, since seating is limited, please contact:
Rose Marie Surwilo, OSF
rmsurwilo@sbcglobal.net



Action

Stop Trafficking wishes to make readers aware of some of the many materials available in the area of human trafficking. Descriptions are not meant as endorsements however.

US State Department Requests Information

The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) is compiling information for the fourth annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* (TIP Report). Realizing that often the best sources of information on this subject are outside of government, the Office invites organizations to provide input that will contribute to a more complete and accurate assessment of global efforts to fight this heinous crime.

Last year, we obtained information from NGOs, academic institutions, news media, and foreign government officials, including immigration and police officers. The TIP Office reviewed the information with extensive support from numerous other bureaus of the Department of State. This year, the Office is striving to further expand its information network.

The TIP Office seeks specific and detailed facts involving instances of severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined by the Statute. It also seeks details regarding anti-trafficking actions, or lack thereof, involving governments. It is especially interested in what governments are doing to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers to full conviction with appropriate sentencing.

Submissions should include numbers of victims and references to sources, where available. The TIP Report addresses foreign government practices, not those of the

United States, except in general terms. However, any U.S.-related information submitted would be shared with relevant U.S. government agencies.

Please inform the TIP Office if any information provided, including your or your organization's name, should NOT be shared with host governments that might inquire into the TIP Office's information sources.

The *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* mandates report submission to Congress by June 1, so all information on trafficking for the 2004 Report must reach the Office by March 15 to allow sufficient time to complete the country assessments. We welcome and appreciate information throughout the year, but please note any information submitted after the deadline will be considered for inclusion in the 2005 Report instead.

Thank you for your interest, dedication, and hard work on combating human trafficking. The U.S. government aims to eradicate modern-day slavery worldwide, and we need global and domestic partners such as you in this fight. We appreciate any help you can give and invite you to send this request on to others who might contribute to this process.

The TIP Office looks forward to working with you to further expose and address this serious crime and global human rights scourge that threatens public health and undermines international security.

The TIP Office set up an e-mail address, TIPREPORT@state.gov to enable you to send global trafficking information directly to the Office.

Alternatively, information may be sent to:

The Department of State (SA-22)
Office to Monitor and Combat
Trafficking in Persons
Attention: TIP Report Section
1800 G Street NW, Ste. 2201
Washington, DC 20520

Toll-Free Hotline:
(Trafficking Information
and Referral)
1.888.3737.888



Action

Educational Opportunity

Donna Hughes, a *Women Studies* professor at the University of Rhode Island, has created an online course to give students an opportunity to learn more about trafficking, slavery, sexual exploitation and violence against women.

Women Studies 350, entitled "Sex Trafficking," focuses on the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls and its impact on their health, rights and status in society.

The contributing roles of male privilege, the media, organized crime, corruption, and the state are examined.

The class reviews the historic and contemporary international anti-sex trafficking movements, and the debates about defining trafficking, the nature of prostitution, and approaches to controlling sexually transmitted diseases. Also, the course reviews approaches to reducing sex trafficking and providing assistance to victims.

Hughes outlined materials for the course that include testimonies by survivors, biographies, theoretical essays, research findings, policy statements, expert testimonies and legislation.

Online at:

http://www.projo.com/shared-content/registration/register.jsp?fw=http://www.projo.com/education/content/projo_20050120_edbrief.22da29.html

Education: International Criminal Networks and Human Trafficking

Trinity University announced a new course offering, open to Washington D.C.-area students and professionals, entitled, *Migration: The International Criminal Component* (INAF 506). The course is part of Trinity's graduate certificate program "*International Migration: Women's and Children's Issues.*"

Derek Ellerman, Adjunct Professor and Co-Executive Director of the Polaris Project, and Robert Maguire, Asst. Professor and Director of Programs in International Affairs at Trinity, are the instructors.

The course examines the criminal networks involved in transnational trafficking



in persons and analyzes frameworks and issues in implementation of counter-trafficking strategies. Students will develop practical skills in counter-trafficking strategic planning through use of scenarios and detailed case studies, including the Korean sex trafficking networks in the United States and the Yakuza and other organized criminal groups in Japan. A research project will focus on transnational networks operating in the greater D.C. region.

The 3-credit course meets Wednesday evenings from March 23 to May 11, 2005 at Trinity University, 125 Michigan Ave, NE Washington D.C. Auditors are allowed. For more information contact Dr. Maguire: 202-884-9585

maguirer@trinitydc.edu

or visit: http://www.trinitydc.edu/academics/depts/Interdisc/International_Home.html

Support Survivors in Their Financial Endeavor

Polaris Project, a multi-cultural nonprofit organization committed to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery through direct intervention and grassroots advocacy, recently launched a new *Polaris Online Store*.

The Store grew out of conversations with clients, who are survivors of sex trafficking and are working to achieve financial freedom. They decided to create a line of special cards, and the Polaris staff supported them with financial assistance and the creation of the website.

Visit www.PolarisProject.org and click on "Polaris Online Store" under the Quick Links section.

There you will view unique, hand-crafted cards, artwork, and other items designed by survivors of trafficking. These special cards are a deeply meaningful alternative to traditional greeting cards, and support the continued recovery of these and other survivors of trafficking.





Action

8

Anti-Slavery International

launched a mini-website in July 2004 to help strengthen the fight against human trafficking by using on-line postcards.

The public will discover the new site via an e-card sent from a friend. The message reads: "To find out where (name) wishes you were, click here". A choice of four cards featuring such popular holiday destinations as Florida or Italy will open but there's a twist. The enticing image disguises the realities of these locations as destinations for victims of trafficking.

Via the card, you may:

- read first-hand accounts from victims of trafficking;
- sign Anti-Slavery's petition calling on governments to make stopping this abuse a priority;
- UK citizens are directed to a link so they can write local politicians calling for a law criminalizing trafficking in the UK;
- take part in a country specific action (currently Brazil) by emailing the relevant government, and urge it to take action against trafficking; and
- join Anti-Slavery's Stop Human Traffic Campaign Network.

A tracker page helps the user keep track of which steps against trafficking s/he has taken so far.

The web-site is:

<http://www.stophumantrafficking.org/ecard.html#>

CA Public Hearing Scheduled

California Assemblywoman Sally Lieber and Senator Sheila Kuehl, along with the CA Legislative Women's Caucus, the CA Commission on the Status of Women, and the CA Women's Law Center, will conduct a hearing to address the critical problem of human trafficking in CA.

Their goal is to continue the discussion begun by the Assembly Select Committee on Human Trafficking in a public hearing in San Francisco in October 2004. The hearing will take place Feb. 25th at the James West Alumni Center of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) (9:30 am - 3:00 pm).



Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Escape from Slavery

<http://www.iabolish.com/index.htm>
<https://secure.ga3.org/02/escape>

www.humantrafficking.com

has compiled over 90 survivor testimonies from around the world, organized by country and by type of trafficking.

<http://www.humantrafficking.com/humantrafficking/Testimonies.htm>

Web address republished:

Anti-Slavery Group

<http://ga0.org/campaign/tsunami>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of

Stop Trafficking!

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraffic/index.html>

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