

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



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1 This issue highlights child trafficking and topics of current importance.

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May I Play for You?

Within the tourist areas of a Greek city one finds Michael, a street child from Albania. He has black hair and a winning smile. He plays a guitar, hoping tourists will give him a few coins. Few tourists realize the 11-year-old is one of approximately 3,000 Albanian children trafficked to Greece and Italy to beg. Children between 4 and 7 years of age are especially prized since they make the most money. Traffickers even 'rent' infants for female beggars.

What appears to be a haphazard collection of beggars is actually an organized criminal racket. Since the fall of Communism in 1991, Albania has become a major supplier of trafficked children into neighboring European countries. The traffickers monitor the children constantly, collect all their earnings, but occasionally send money back to the children's parents.

"I must bring 5,000 drachmas (\$12.50) to my owner each day," says Michael. "I must work to make money for my mother." If he doesn't make his daily quota, he says the man who 'owns him' will beat him. Michael, a gypsy, has been begging on the streets since he was five years old, since his family is poor. He attended school for only two years and is illiterate. His

mother gave permission to a neighbor – a trafficker – to take Michael to Greece so that the boy could earn money for the family. The trafficker promised to send back \$70 each month.

Michael's 13-year-old sister is also in Greece, being prostituted by 'her owner,' while his 6-year-old brother lives in a Greek orphanage. Michael is trapped between two violent worlds. He has dog scratch wounds on his neck and cigarette burns on his arms. At home his mother also beat him.

Greek authorities treat street children as criminals, instead of as victims. They are jailed or deported. Greek police brought 50 Albanians to the Greek-Albanian border. Within minutes, the group of deportees vanished into waiting taxis. Children are frequently returned to traffickers, who loiter just beyond Albanian immigration and march them back into Greece. In some cases, Albanian police are alleged to collude with traffickers.

Michael has not been deported, but he wants to leave his job in Greece. "Take me with you to Italy. Or America," he pleads. When asked what he would do there, he says, "I want to go to school."

"Humanity will not enjoy security without development; it will not enjoy development without security; and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

From Report of UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, which outlines issues he would like to see addressed by Heads of State when they gather in NY to review the Millennium Summit (2000) in September 2005.

Song of a Slave

At nine years old, Given Kachepa knew little more than sadness.

An orphan by the fourth grade, Kachepa lived in the shanty village of Kalingalinga, Zambia, where the average life span is 35, the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is exploding, and per capita annual income is just \$395.

So when offered the chance to travel to the United States and live for free, Kachepa didn't give it a second thought. "Who wouldn't want to come here?" Kachepa says. "To me, it sounded like heaven."

But the United States, where he arrived in 1998 when he was 11, soon became his own personal hell.

TTT: Partners in Education, a Sherman, Texas, faith-based organization, promised Kachepa that he and 11 other Zambian boys would receive free schooling, housing, and a salary as part of a fund-raising *capella* music tour to build schools back in their native country.

After three months of a grueling tour schedule, Kachepa knew he had been duped. The boys never were taken to school, they were expected to cook, clean and care for themselves with no income, and no money ever made its way back to Zambia to build a school.

Slave cont. pg. 5



Awareness

2 Forms of Child Trafficking

Labor exploitation: Children may be trafficked to work on plantations, in mines or in other hazardous conditions, such as handling chemicals and pesticides or operating dangerous machinery. They are often kept isolated within destination countries and are fearful of reporting the abusive work conditions to authorities. In certain cases, children are trafficked into bonded labor. The family typically receives an advance payment, often structured so that 'expenses' or 'interest' are deducted from a child's earnings in such amounts that it is nearly impossible to repay the debt or 'buy back' the child.

Domestic work: The *International Labor Organization* (ILO) estimates that the majority of child domestics are girls. Parents and children are often lured by promises of education or a good job. Once trafficked, they may find themselves stripped of their identification papers and lacking any support network. They are dependent on their exploiters for safety, food and shelter, and most endure harsh working conditions.

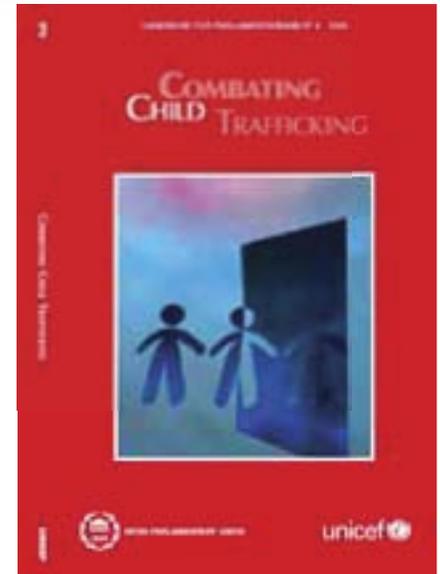
Sexual exploitation: Children, especially girls, are trafficked to work in brothels, massage parlors, prostitution rings or strip clubs, or used to produce pornographic materials. Though it is difficult to determine precisely, ILO global child labor figures for the year 2000 estimated that 1.8 million children are exploited in the commercial sex industry suffering extreme physical, sexual and psychological violence and abuse by traffickers, pimps and 'customers'.

Military conscription: It is estimated that child soldiers have been used in more than 30 ongoing or recent armed conflicts in almost every region of the world. Some children join fighting forces due to poverty or abuse, others are forcibly recruited or abducted. Children's roles in conflicts vary. They are used as messengers, porters, cooks, 'wives' who provide sexual services or as combatants. Children are most vulnerable to recruitment if they are poor, separated from their families, displaced from their homes, living in a combat zone, have limited access to education or are orphaned.

Marriage: Girls are trafficked as brides for various reasons. When poverty is acute, a girl may be regarded as an economic burden for her family and her marriage to an older man may be seen as a family survival strategy. Sometimes, the arrangements made by male migrants to find wives from their home regions result in the trafficking of child brides. There is a growing demand by older men for a young virgin bride, particularly in places where the fear and risk of HIV/AIDS infection is high. Sometimes families may encourage their daughters to marry early because they mistakenly believe that it will protect their girls from HIV. Early marriage is common in Central and Western Africa, where 40 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively, of girls under the age of 19 are affected.

Illicit adoption: An increase in demand for adoption has helped to propel the unlawful trafficking of

UNICEF *cont. pg. 3*



UNICEF Handbook for Parliamentarians (85 pgs.) from which the UNICEF article is excerpted on pgs. 2-3.

War On Children

A "hidden army" of girls - some as young as eight - are being forced to work for armed groups involved in conflicts worldwide.

A recent *Save the Children* report found over 120,000 girls and young women have been abducted and pushed into conflict. They often end up serving as soldiers or performing domestic jobs but almost all of them are forced into becoming sex slaves.

Figures released by *Save the Children* showed that around 6,500 girls have been captured by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda. In the Democratic Republic of Congo another 12,000 are believed to be involved in armed organizations, while another 21,500 (43% of all children fighting) are thought to be associated with conflict in Sri Lanka.

A spokesman said the study was not unique to any one country or continent and it showed a worrying global trend. The report also criticized world leaders and citizens for failing to address the problem and said that rehabilitation programs set up by the international community were considerably underfunded. *"This appalling abuse of girls' rights demands urgent action. It's time to stop the war on children."*



Awareness

UNICEF

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babies and young children. Sometimes mothers from developing countries sell their baby or young child, at other times the infant is stolen and mothers are told the baby was stillborn.

Sport: Children, particularly young boys, have been trafficked as camel jockeys. The sport is a lucrative industry, and children are especially appealing for this purpose because of their small size. The use of children as jockeys in camel racing is extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury and even death. Boys who lose races are often brutalized by their exploiters, deprived of their salary and food, and mentally and physically abused.

Begging: Children may be recruited and trafficked to earn money for others by begging or selling goods on the street. In some cases, their captors maim child beggars to engender sympathy and greater charity.

Organs: Organ trafficking is specifically included in the *Palermo Protocol*. Although this horrific practice is nearly impossible to monitor or detect, it nonetheless is reported. Parliamentarians need to be aware of this clandestine phenomenon. (Report pgs. 13-16)

Impact of Trafficking on Children

“Trafficking abrogates a child’s right to a healthy childhood and a productive, rewarding, dignified life. Child trafficking victims are subjugated and physically abused by the perpetrators: traffickers, employers, pimps, madams, and ‘customers’. Trafficked chil-

dren are often beaten and abused, and the violence occurs at all stages of the trafficking cycle.” This has a serious negative impact on children emotionally, physically, and psychosocially. (Report pg. 16)

Factors that Make Children Vulnerable

“Trafficking victims often come from poor families and lack economic opportunities. Children who have minimal education, lack vocational skills or have few prospects for job opportunities are most at risk. These factors, when compounded by gender, racial or ethnic discrimination, or insecurity caused by armed conflict and civil strife, create the ideal environment for trafficking networks to thrive. Unless these underlying causes are addressed, the more direct measures to stop trafficking will have limited success. Some of the main areas in which members of parliament can take action” include (each area is explained): poverty, legal and social inequality of women and girls, low school enrollment, children without caregivers, lack of birth registration, humanitarian disasters and armed conflicts, demand for exploitative sex and cheap labor, traditions and cultural values. (Report pgs. 17-19)

- The estimated global number of children not attending school is 121 million, the majority of whom are girls.
- Assessments by the *International Labor Organization* have found that orphaned children are much more likely than non-orphans to be working in domestic service, commercial sex, commercial agriculture or as street vendors.
- It is estimated that 41 per cent of the children born in 2000 were not registered at birth.
- Trafficking and the skyrocketing demand for exploitative labor and sexual services are inexorably linked.

Challenging gender discrimination

“Inequality between men and women and between boys and girls breeds child trafficking. Discrimination against girls and women is pervasive. The subordination of girls and women in law, policies and practice leaves them vulnerable to abuse. Attitudes and beliefs about the relative worth of girls and women can lead to a climate in which they are bought and sold.”

Discrimination is evident from (each is explained) birth, within families, in schools, in societies, and wherever “women and girls are left out of the decisions that define the conditions in which they live.” (Report pg. 40)

The UN Palermo Protocol, 2000 contains the most widely endorsed definition of trafficking, a basis for national anti-trafficking laws.

Definition of Trafficking Article 3

- a) Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
- b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;
- c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered ‘trafficking in persons’ even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;
- d) ‘Child’ shall mean any person less than eighteen years of age.

The definition clearly states that ‘threat, coercion or consent’ is not required to constitute child trafficking.



Advocacy

‘Scourge’ of Human Trafficking Must Be Eliminated, USCCB Expert Testifies

An advocate for child victims of trafficking at the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)* offered recommendations to members of Congress March 9, 2005 on ways to improve upon the significant steps taken in recent years to identify and assist victims.

Julianne Duncan, director of children’s services in the USCCB’s *Migration and Refugee Services*, in testimony before the *House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights, and International Operations*, offered support for the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA)*. The legislation would extend and update a law originally passed in 2000 and renewed in 2003, which established the United States’ framework for responding to human trafficking.

It is estimated that as many as 17,000 individuals – as many as one-third of them children – each year are trafficked into the United States to work in the sex trade or as slave labor. Women and children have been forced to work in prostitution and child pornography rings, while men, women, and children have been forced into different types of manual labor, without pay or protection.

Duncan said the Catholic Church placed the elimination of trafficking as an important public policy priority. “We are working to raise awareness within the Catholic community about the problem, including trainings to

help diocesan staff identify and assist victims of trafficking,” Duncan told members of the subcommittee.

Duncan said that, based on the Church’s experience in serving trafficking victims, the USCCB recommends several ideas for strengthening the continuum of services to victims and for identifying victims, especially child victims, and referring them for care:

- *Funding for services* should be increased and services should be made available to victims from the point they are rescued to the point they are self-sufficient and in good health. Duncan said currently “*there exist gaps in funding and services ... which should be addressed.*”
- *More avenues* should be created for the referral of victims for certification and services. “*Although as many as 17,000 persons are trafficked into the United States each year, approximately 500 have been identified and certified since 2000,*” Duncan said. “*This is primarily because of the lack of awareness among the general public, community organizations and groups, and local law enforcement authorities, which should improve in the months and years ahead. It is also because there exist only certain avenues for referral, mainly by federal authorities who apprehend and prosecute traffickers and who rescue victims.*”
- *Federal agencies* should better coordinate efforts, especially in the

certification, protection, and care of victims. Duncan said the creation of an office in the State Department for trafficking issues has helped focus U.S. efforts in this area. However, “*information on victims and prosecutions should be more readily shared between the agencies, and questions about implementation of the law should be jointly considered and addressed.*”

Duncan urged the subcommittee to pay particular attention to the needs of child victims of trafficking, who have only accounted for 63 of 500 victims identified since 2000 – even though children account for an estimated one-third of all victims.

“*While efforts to find and assist victims of trafficking have been pursued with commendable commitment over the last several years, I fear that children, as a group, have fallen through the cracks of these enforcement efforts,*” Duncan said. She highlighted several provisions of the bill related to child victims, which she said the USCCB strongly supports:

- appointment of guardians *ad litem* for potential child trafficking victims;
- access to legal counsel for victims of trafficking;
- protection of victims of domestic trafficking in persons;
- prevention of trafficking; and
- enhanced efforts to combat trafficking.



Advocacy

“My dream is not just for my nation and my country, but for the whole world. It is that everyone should have equal rights, and humans should not exploit humans.”

Ranjana Gaur, SARC

Article pg. 7

Holy See Laments Growth in Trafficking in Human Beings

Archbishop Salvatore Pennachio, Apostolic Nuncio in Thailand, addressed the 11th U.N. Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok on April 25, 2005 on behalf of the Holy See. The archbishop focused on five “issues that are of particular concern for the Holy See and that are related to crime prevention and criminal justice.”

“The first one is trafficking in human beings,” he said. “This scourge is often responsible for taking away the hope for a decent future of the most vulnerable, especially women and children.”

Other issues were the sale and possession of firearms, corruption, crimes in post conflict situations, and the effective implementation of U.N. rules concerning the just treatment of prisoners and minors. (Excerpted from Zenit April 28, 2005)

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, speaking at the annual gathering of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in April 2005 in Manila, noted it would have been easy to become demoralized after speaking with children on every continent who had been “beaten and raped, bought and sold, wrenched from home by conflict and forced to toil as soldiers and sex slaves.”

“But if my decade with UNICEF has taught me anything, it is that this massive suffering of children is completely within our power to curtail,” she told the several hundred legislators at the conference.

“Parliamentarians have a choice,” Bellamy declared. “They can make decisions that ensure the protection of children, or they can make decisions that leave children vulnerable to being exploited and abused. The first choice virtually guarantees strong national development; the second choice virtually guarantees the continuation of poverty.” Bellamy completed her 10-year tenure in April 2005.

The UNICEF Director urged countries to pass child trafficking laws.

http://www.humantrafficking.org/collaboration/international/news/2005_04/unicef_urges_ct_laws.html

USCCB from pg. 4

Duncan commended the “great strides” made by the US Departments of State, Justice, and Health and Human Services since 2000 in identifying and serving victims of human trafficking, bringing traffickers to justice, and raising public awareness. “The historic passage of trafficking legislation in 2000 established the framework for the U.S. response and places the United States as a moral leader in the effort to eradicate the scourge of trafficking from the face of the earth,” she said. “Reauthorization of the legislation in 2005 would represent another positive step.”

Slave from pg. 1

“The words looked good on paper, but that’s not the way it all worked,” Kachepa said. “Everybody felt that we were trapped. There were so many things that were wrong. If you spoke out about it to anybody, he threatened you. All you had to do was sing and be quiet.”

After 12 more months, authorities at the former Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services were alerted and secured foster homes for all 12 boys. Since then, the U.S. Justice Department has conducted investigations of TTT, and the U.S. Department of Labor has won a civil suit against TTT for nearly \$1 million owed to the boys in back wages.

Living safely with his guardian family in Colleyville, Texas, Kachepa—now a 17-year-old boy with soft brown eyes and a wide smile—represents one of the more fortunate victims of human trafficking.

(Excerpted from an article by Natalie Bauer, www.freedommagazine.com)



Action

Help Free Ilguilas Weila, Anti-Slavery Activist

Free the Slaves' UK-based sister organization, *Anti-Slavery International*, recently sent us some disturbing news: Ilguilas Weila, a prominent anti-slavery activist, has been arrested under false pretences in Niger along with five others. *We need your help to compel the government of Niger to free Ilguilas and the five others who are behind bars with him.*

What we know so far:

In March the Niger Government held a ceremony to mark the end of slavery throughout the country--some 7,000 people were to be released in one region of Niger.

The ceremony was held. However, that release did not go ahead as planned. Slavery was declared a criminal offence. Then things got strange. Authorities warned slave masters not to release their slaves officially. If they did, they were told they would face up to 30 years in prison.

It got worse. On April 28, 2005 the Government of Niger arrested the country's leading anti-slavery activist, Ilguilas Weila, president of Niger's pioneering anti-slavery organization *Timidria*, along with five other people. They remain under arbitrary detention, accused of "*propagating false information on slavery and attempting to raise funds illegally.*"

Timidria "*categorically denies the false charges*" brought against Ilguilas Weila and believes this is part of a concerted campaign of harassment by the authorities to muzzle the organiza-

tion. At least 43,000 people are in slavery across Niger. They are born into an established slave class and are forced to carry out all labor required by their masters without pay, including herding, cleaning, and moving their master's tent to ensure he and his family are always in the shade. Slaves are inherited, given as gifts, and babies may be taken away from their mothers once weaned. They are denied all rights.

In May 2004 a new law came into effect making practicing slavery punishable by up to 30 years in prison. The Government's move was in response to the publication of the first national survey of slavery, which was jointly carried out by *Timidria* and *Anti-Slavery International*. The report uncovered widespread slavery in Niger. Investigators interviewed 11,000 people, most of them slaves.

For more information and background on slavery in Niger and *Timidria* visit *Anti-Slavery International's* website.

Thank you for your continued support of the modern anti-slavery movement. Sincerely, Jacob Patton

Send a letter to the President and the Prime Minister of Niger, asking them to release Ilguilas Weila and the other activists and take measures to recognize and combat slavery in Niger. After taking action, please send *Free the Slaves* copies of any replies you receive.

'Free the Slaves' Partner Received Human Rights Award

On April 28, 2005 Ranjana Gaur, a partner to *Free the Slaves*, received the prestigious *Perdita Huston Human Rights Award* in Washington, D.C. Ranjana Gaur, at the age of 27, founded and now directs the *Social Action Research Center (SARC)* in Varanasi, India. SARC has helped liberate hundreds of women and girls from human trafficking and domestic violence. Ranjana organizes the women and girls in the slums of Varanasi to demand their rights. Their message is simple: *Human trafficking and domestic violence must stop.*

Free the Slaves, recently in partnership with SARC, nominated Ranjana for the award. The award will help SARC spread its effective programs to more women and girls. More than anything else, this award underscores what Ranjana has known since founding SARC: *in order to effectively fight human trafficking, it is necessary to empower women and girls and demand women's rights.* When gender-based discrimination and violence are allowed to happen freely, human traffickers find their job even easier. SARC's work shows that anti-trafficking programs, if accompanied by education and organizing efforts, not only prevent trafficking but also lead to strong communities that do not tolerate violence and discrimination.

If you would like to send your congratulations to Ranjana, please send *Free the Slaves* an email.

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Action

Call for CA Citizens to Take Action

Last July thousands took action to help prevent tragedies such as the July 18, 2004 death from heat stroke of Asuncion Valdivia, who was stricken in 100-plus degree heat following 10 hours of picking table grapes in a Kern County CA vineyard. Valdivia, 53, died in the car next to his son after a foreman with *Giumarra Vineyards Corp.* cancelled the paramedics and told Valdivia's son to drive his father home. In order to protect farm workers, we need a new law that addresses this vital issue before more innocent farm workers are killed or injured.

The CA Division of Occupational Safety and Health has been investigating a number of work-related fatalities involving heat, including half a dozen in agriculture, during the last eight years. The state set up an advisory committee to consider heat stress in 1990, but no regulations were adopted and current rules do not include any provisions for preventing or responding to heat illness. Table grape growers last year ignored *United Farm Workers'* requests to take voluntary action.

UFW-sponsored AB 805, by CA Assemblymember Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), is a big step forward. It would instruct the state to adopt standards requiring employers to help prevent heat illness and provide for immediate and appropriate medical treatment when workers have symptoms. There would have to be access to shaded rest areas, if feasible, and adequate hourly rest breaks during

extreme heat. Supervisors would be trained in spotting heat illness, providing first aid and summoning emergency medical care.

UFW President Arturo Rodriguez and some 100 farm workers from across California gathered at the CA Capitol to lobby lawmakers for AB 805.

Please help these workers prevent more tragedies by sending an e-mail in support of this bill to your CA state lawmaker today.

And non-Californians, do you know if there are such protective laws in your state?

Rescue & Restore Announces New Campaign Materials and Encourages Coalition Partners and Citizens to Continue Looking Beneath the Surface

The *Rescue & Restore* team announced the availability of new campaign posters and foreign language materials.

Posters include: Domestic Servitude (Eng.), Sex Trafficking (Russian and Eng.), Migrant Trafficking and Labor Trafficking (Span. and Eng.). Also available are child exploitation and social service materials translated into several foreign languages including, Indonesian, Thai, Korean and Vietnamese for outreach to these ethnic communities. The new posters and foreign language materials can be viewed online. You may also request they be sent to you using the new order form.

Editor's Note:

If you know of good video/book resources, please notify us so we can pass the word on to other readers.

Thank you!

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

UNICEF Handbook for Parliamentarians is available at:

http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/child_trafficking_handbook.pdf

Carol Bellamy (UNICEF)

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_25845.html

Rescue & Restore Materials

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/posters.html>

Anti-Slavery International

<http://www.antislavery.org/archive/press/latestpressrelease.htm>

Toll-Free Hotline: (Trafficking Information and Referral)

1.888.3737.888

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/srjeanschafer/sds/stoptrafficking/index.html>

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