



# Trafficking Watch

International Rescue Committee

Issue No. 6, Winter 2005

## PROTECTING TSUNAMI VICTIMS

After reports of alleged human trafficking surfaced in the days following the tsunami disaster, Ambassador John Miller (Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons) warned that the real threat is probably yet to come.

"Our expertise," Ambassador Miller said, "leads us to believe that trafficking is likely to take place not in the week following the tsunami, or two weeks, but over the next several months, as children and families realize their vulnerability and start weighing phony opportunities for education and jobs."

According to Ambassador Miller, U.S. efforts regarding human trafficking in the tsunami's aftermath have been focused on encouraging governments and charitable organizations "to take the common-sense education and prevention and warning measures that will be helpful in avoiding the worsening of this problem in the coming months."

Of the countries worst hit by the tsunami, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand and India were noted in the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report (for 2004) as having governments that do not comply with the minimum standards set by the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

enacted in 2002. Ambassador Miller said that even though some of the tsunami-hit countries received poor ratings in the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, the United States is pleased with

the attention given by those governments to the trafficking issue as it relates to the tsunami.

"I think what you're seeing is because of a lot of work that went on in the preceding year or two, the governments that are involved are far more aware of the slave trade threat than they were before," Ambassador Miller said. Media reports in the wake of the tsunami have also heightened awareness of the problem, he added.

*For more information on Ambassador Miller's remarks, visit <http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jan/13-996622.html>*

### Ambassador Miller Issues Letter to Aid Agencies

On January 7, Ambassador John Miller issued a letter to humanitarian aid agencies working in the tsunami-struck regions regarding the urgent need to protect victims of the disaster from becoming

**"Warn potential victims of human trafficking schemes."**

*-John Miller*



REUTERS/Hoko Datta (courtesy www.alertnet.org)

ing re-victimized by human traffickers. In the letter, Ambassador Miller stated, "When people are displaced, when children are separated from their families, when livelihoods are ruined, and when infrastructure is destroyed-people become more vulnerable to labor and sex trafficking crimes."

Ambassador Miller suggested that relief organizations take the following actions to help to prevent human trafficking in the area:

## CONTENTS

DOS Interim Report	3
News Briefs	4
Fast Facts	6
Resources	8
Legislation & Caselaw	11
Policy Updates	13
In the Spotlight	15
Calendar of Events	16

"Traffickers are taking advantage of the chaos and the sheer number of children at risk. . . sometimes they are simply abducting children from camps and hospitals."

-Vital Voices

Global Partnership



REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco(courtesy www.alertnet.org)

malcy in children's lives which will help children cope with the loss of family and friends.

8. Report suspected human traffickers, in particular rebel groups in Sri Lanka and Banda Aceh of Indonesia, to local law enforcement and international relief agencies.
9. Recruit qualified and experienced volunteers to provide counseling, medical care, and other services to children and their family members.
10. Coordinate with religious groups, schools, or local government offices to conduct campaigns to receive donations, food, clothes, and toys for children.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.vitalvoices.org>

### USCIS Says Tsunami Orphans Should Remain in Their Communities

On January 5, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a statement cautioning against the adoption of tsunami orphans, stating that adoption "is not the recommended solution, at least in the short term." USCIS advised would-be adoptive parents that it will take many months before the governments of countries hit by the tsunami will be able to identify the children who are actual orphans, and only then will these governments decide whether to make these orphans available for international adoption.

The USCIS explained: "The international standard among adoption professionals in a crisis is to keep children as close to their family members and community as possible."

To view the full statement, visit:  
<http://uscis.gov/graphics/publicaffairs/newsrels/010505Tsunami.pdf>

- Warn potential victims of human trafficking schemes.
- Register and protect those people staying in shelters, particularly children.
- Avoid placing women and children in isolated areas of shelters or camps.
- Educate new hires about human trafficking and outline a zero-tolerance policy for employees involved in human trafficking.

To read the full letter, visit:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rm/2005/40437.htm>

### Vital Voices Global Partnership Publishes 10 Recommendations for NGOs to protect Tsunami Victims from Human Trafficking

In cooperation with their women network members and other NGOs, Vital Voices, a global partnership to support women's progress in building democracies, strong economies and peace, has developed ten recommendations to improve the ability of NGOs in the tsunami-affected region to protect children from further victimization and to increase public awareness about human trafficking:

1. Identify children who are at risk of being trafficked, such as children who

are orphaned, separated from their families, or homeless.

2. Assist international relief organizations, such as Save the Children and UNICEF with registering unaccompanied children and locating family members.
3. Coordinate relief and rehabilitation efforts between relief organizations and other NGOs, such as those who address human trafficking, domestic violence or women's rights in the region.
4. Create and distribute brochures or palm cards with child-friendly language or pictures to alert children of the potential dangers of trafficking.
5. Set up hotlines which provide information about NGOs and shelters that care for unaccompanied children. Distribute the hotline numbers to relief workers, NGO staff, and throughout communities affected by the tsunamis.
6. Make more space available at new and existing shelters and half-way houses to people, especially children, without homes.
7. Create closely supervised playgrounds in public spaces, such as schools and community centers. Providing safe spaces that encourage play will restore an element of nor-

## Steps Taken by Local Governments to Protect Children after the Tsunami

**Indonesia** - The government is temporarily barring anyone from taking children (under 16) in the Aceh province out of the country, and has put a ban on adoption amid an increasing number of reports that human traffickers were transporting children out of Aceh. Officials also ordered provincial commanders, especially in and near Aceh, to be alert to possible child trafficking.

**India** - India will not relax its strict rules on adoption, despite the thousands orphaned by the tsunami.

**Thailand** - Thailand has long been criticized for not doing enough to prevent human trafficking. While laws exist on the books, officials sometimes appear ignorant of regulations aimed at protecting both children and adults. No special measures have been taken since the tsunami, but Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said the government is working with hospitals to prevent child-trafficking gangs from taking advantage of the situation. Thailand does have relatively strict rules on adoption.

**Sri Lanka** - Like neighboring India, Sri Lanka already has strict rules on adoption. The Sri Lankan government has also announced a ban on any adoptions of children orphaned by the disaster.

## UNICEF Outlines Five Key Steps to Protect Tsunami Zone Children

On January 8, UNICEF outlined measures needed to protect children in the tsunami zone from exploitation, abuse and criminal trafficking, stating that the most vulnerable of the tsunami generation are those who have lost their parents or have been separated from their families.

Five key steps essential to protecting orphans and other vulnerable children:

- Register all displaced children: Knowing which children are alone or possibly orphaned, and knowing exactly where they are, is the first critical step to protecting them. Registration is underway in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.
- Provide immediate safe care: Children identified as unaccompanied or lost must be placed in the temporary care of adults accountable for their welfare. In displacement camps, separate child-friendly care centers for unaccompanied children may be established. Alternately, children may be placed in community-based children's homes until their families can be located.
- Locate relatives: Registering children by name, address, community and birth date allows local and national authorities, working with NGOs, to trace and reunite surviving family members who were separated in the disaster. It also enables authorities to locate extended family members, such as aunts and uncles, grandparents and older siblings.
- Alert police and other authorities: Alerting police, border patrols, teachers, health workers and others to the threat of child exploitation is essential, as is enlisting their support to protect children.
- Special national measures: The governments of Indonesia and Sri Lanka have placed temporary bans on adoptions. According to international standards, having orphans stay with relatives in extended family units is considered a better solution than uprooting a child.

*To read more about UNICEF's recommendations, view:*

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_24771.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_24771.html)

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INTERIM ASSESSMENT

Department of State  
*January 2005*

On January 3, the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons ('TIP Office') released an interim report on the progress made by 49 countries put on the Special Watch List in September of 2004. The report focuses on the progress each government has made in addressing its key deficiencies highlighted in the June 2004 TIP Report.

The Special Watch List includes countries that had moved up a tier on the TIP Report over the last year or were ranked on Tier 2 but (a) had not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address TIP, (b) were placed on Tier 2 because of commitments to carry out additional future actions over the coming year, or (c) had a large or growing number of trafficking victims.

The Interim Assessment is intended to serve as a tool by which to gauge the anti-trafficking progress of countries in danger of slipping a tier in the upcoming June 2005 TIP Report, particularly those in danger of slipping to Tier 3.

Below are summaries of activities undertaken by several countries that were noted in the interim report as having made significant progress.

### Tanzania

Since the release of the 2004 Report, the Government of Tanzania has directed unprecedented high-level attention to trafficking in persons. In July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) convened a meeting of permanent secretaries and senior civil servants to discuss the trafficking situation in Tan-

zania, police investigations into trafficking cases and existing anti-trafficking statutes.

In the area of prevention, local government officials sit on district committees that identify children vulnerable to or involved in the worst forms of child labor, including prostitution and forced domestic labor. These committees designate specific children eligible for targeted protection services offered by the International Labor Organization, including rehabilitation, education and alternative training.

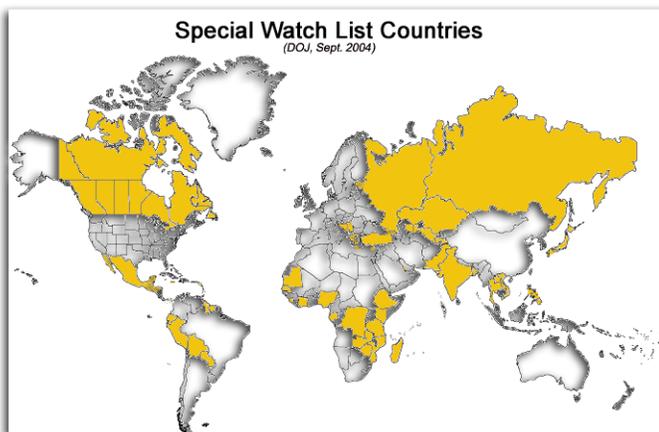
### Madagascar

The Government of Madagascar has also directed unprecedented high-level attention towards the issue of trafficking in persons.

The Government has significantly enhanced its efforts to curb child prostitution. The Minors' Brigade of Antananarivo has conducted three separate raids of nightclubs, identifying 53 minors illegally present.

The Government has also bolstered its ability to assist victimized child workers through the establishment of Welcome Centers. Since July, one center has rescued over 200 children from the worst forms of child labor, including prostitution, and has reintroduced many of them into the educational or vocational training system.

Awareness of trafficking in persons has increased through an aggressive information campaign. The Government has presented four local dialect sketches on prostitution, placed two articles on child labor in the national press, broadcast 20 educational programs on national radio stations and initiated a national drawing, poetry and essay contest on the theme of combating child labor. Several anti-trafficking videos are in production.



Africa	East Asia and Pacific	Europe and Euroasia	Near East	South Asia	Western Hemisphere
Cote d'Ivoire DR Congo Ethiopia Gabon Kenya Madagascar Malawi Mauritania Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Tanzania Zambia Zimbabwe	Japan Laos Philippines Thailand Vietnam	Azerbaijan Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Cyprus Estonia Georgia Greece Kazakhstan Russia Serbia and Montenegro Tajikistan Turkey Uzbekistan	Qatar	Bangladesh India Pakistan	Belize Bolivia Canada Dominica Ecuador Guatemala Guyana Honduras Jamaica Mexico Paraguay Peru Suriname

### Uzbekistan

The Government of Uzbekistan continues to make significant efforts to combat trafficking, particularly in the area of enforcement. The Government has opened nearly 180 cases, apprehended 228 suspects and identified 531 victims.

### Guatemala

The Government of Guatemala has made noticeable progress in addressing anti-trafficking deficiencies. The Government acknowledges there is a significant problem and has appointed a high-level government official to coordinate its anti-trafficking national strategy. The Government's commitment to prosecute traffickers was demonstrated by its conducting 113 raids of bars, brothels and other establishments where traffickers are known to operate. The raids resulted in 40 arrests.

To see the full assessment of each country on the Watch List, visit:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/rpt/40247.htm>

## NEWS BRIEFS

### TAMIL TIGERS RECRUITING TSUNAMI CHILD VICTIMS

Colombo, Sri Lanka  
January 2005

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, Sri Lanka's rebel group, Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has recruited 40 children under the age of 18 in the month since the tsunami disaster. The UN organization has verified 40 cases of children being captured to be turned into soldiers. The children's ages range from 13 to 17. Four of the children

were living in camps for tsunami-displaced populations.

The Tigers relied heavily on child soldiers during their bloody two-decade war for autonomy, an ethnic conflict that has killed over 64,000 people but has been in limbo for three years due to a ceasefire.

The tsunami orphaned about 1,000 Sri Lankan children, while more than 3,000 others lost one parent. Thousands of Sri Lankan children have already spent much of their childhood displaced because of the civil war.

### **GOLD MEDALLIST ACCUSED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

*Vienna, Austria  
January 2005*

Olympic skating gold medalist Wolfgang Schwarz has been arrested in Austria and accused of human trafficking. The 56-year-old was held at his Vienna apartment on suspicion that he brought women from the Lithuania to Austria and Italy for prostitution, according to the prosecutor's office. Schwarz, who won figure skating gold medal at the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, and three Lithuanians are accused of having sent 15 women to Austrian and Italian brothels. In 2002, Schwarz was sentenced to 18 months in prison for bringing five women from Russia and Lithuania to Austria to work as prostitutes.

### **AIR MARSHAL CHARGED WITH AIDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

*Brooklyn, New York  
January 2005*

A federal air marshal was arrested Tuesday on charges he played a role in a human trafficking ring that officials say worked out of a Flushing nightclub. Byungki Koo, 33, was accused of attempting to kidnap a woman and of

obstructing enforcement of the federal peonage law, a statute that covers the use of forced labor to pay off debts. Koo was believed to be working as an air marshal when he allegedly committed the crime. Koo faces at least 20 years in prison if convicted.

### **CHILD RAPE CAMPS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

*San Diego, California  
January 2005*

Hundreds of Mexican girls between the ages of 7 and 18 were kidnapped or coerced by organized criminal sex traffickers. Victims were then transported to San Diego County, California, where they were raped by hundreds of men daily in over two dozen brothels based in homes and agricultural camps. Ten years after local law officials first learned of the brothels existence, a joint INS, FBI and San Diego Sheriff's raid was organized. During the raid, many of the traffickers escaped. Those who were captured were released shortly afterwards because intimidated child victims refused to testify against them. Many victims were deported to Mexico without receiving any victim services. *For more information about the community's response, please visit: <http://www.libertadlatina.org>*

### **BOSTON FORMS ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASKFORCE**

*Boston, Massachusetts  
January 2005*

A \$443,000 federal grant has been awarded for the creation of the Boston Area Anti-Trafficking Taskforce. The taskforce is being launched to counter the spread of human trafficking in the region and includes 10 law enforcement and social service partners. The group's goal is to increase victim rescues by 15 percent each year.

### **FIRST TRAFFICKING CONVICTION FOR NEW UK LAW**

*United Kingdom  
January 2005*

Two Albanian traffickers, Taulant Merdanaj and Elidon Bregu, are the first to be convicted in the United Kingdom under a new law against trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The men trafficked two women from Lithuania, promising them work as waitresses in a nightclub, and then taking their passports and holding the women against their will.

Merdanaj was convicted of trafficking people into and within the UK for sexual exploitation and of rape, and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Bregu was sentenced to 9 years for trafficking within the UK.

### **NAALC TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CONFERENCE**

*Washington, D.C.  
December 2004*

The North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) hosted its Conference on Trafficking in Persons in North America in Washington, D.C. The conference objective was to focus attention on and raise awareness of trafficking as a growing phenomenon in North America, to share information on anti-trafficking approaches by governmental and non-governmental organizations and to explore trilateral collaboration between the United States, Canada and Mexico on this issue. This was the first time that trafficking in persons was the center of discussion at the NAALC conference. The U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao presented the Administration's four-prong approach to combating trafficking: (1) preventing trafficking through job training, interception and enhancing incidence reporting globally; (2) developing rescue programs to find victims and to help

them escape from captivity; (3) protecting and assisting victims through social service programs; and (4) prosecuting trafficking criminals. More information about the conference is available at: [www.naalctip.org](http://www.naalctip.org).

#### **COLLIER COUNTY ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

*Collier, Florida  
December 2004*

The Collier County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Law Enforcement and Service Provider Multidisciplinary Anti-Trafficking Task Force Grant Award in the amount of \$424,927. The Collier County Sheriff's Office was the only grant recipient in Florida, and one of 18 law enforcement agencies nationwide to receive this grant. This agency will collaborate with local, State and Federal Agencies, as well as with a number of community-based organizations, to enhance the agency's efforts in

identifying incidents of human trafficking and bringing the offenders to justice. More information is available at [www.colliersheriff.org](http://www.colliersheriff.org)

#### **DOJ RELEASE NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS**

*Washington, D.C.  
December 2004*

The U.S. Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice requests proposals for research on human trafficking that will inform policy and practice at the local, State and national level. NIJ is particularly interested in proposals on the following areas: detecting and measuring trafficking; investigating and prosecuting traffickers; meeting victim needs and preventing repeat victimization. NIJ anticipates that up to \$1.2 million will become available for three to five awards. The application deadline is March 24, 2005.

#### **UN HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR NEW APPROACH TO TRAFFICKING**

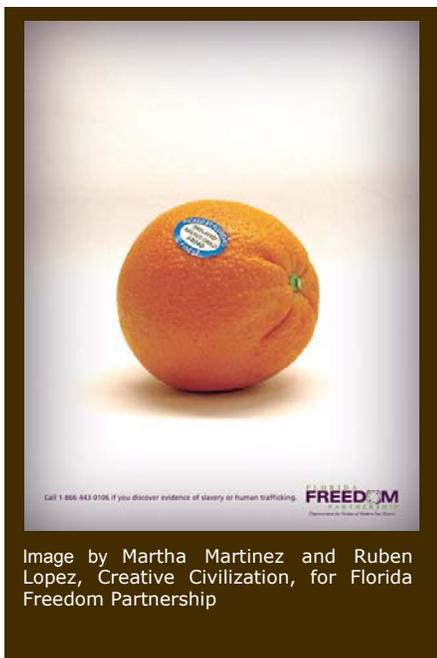
*Geneva, Switzerland  
October 2004*

In her annual report to the UN General Assembly, Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated that trafficking of people continues to be addressed as a law-and-order issue even though it should be approached from a human rights and development perspective. The law-and-order approach prosecutes victims as illegal aliens and undocumented workers rather than as victims of crimes. Women and young girls forced into the sex industry are prosecuted as prostitutes. According to her report, the root causes of trafficking are also key development issues, including insecurity of food sources, inadequate means of a livelihood, poverty and migration. She concluded by ensuring that trafficking of persons will remain a priority issue.

---

## **Fast Facts**

- **Human Trafficking is a global industry that provides criminals an estimated \$8 billion to \$10 billion a year in profits.** *Source: Attorney General John Ashcroft July 2004*
- **An estimated 80% of trafficking victims are female and up to 50% percent are minors.** *Source: U.S. Department of Justice, November 2004*
- **International law enforcement officials estimate that humans are now the 3rd most lucrative commodity traded illegally, after drugs and guns.** *Source: "Sex on the Auction Block", Detroit Free Press, October 24, 2004*
- **Every year an estimated 2 million children are enslaved in the commercial sex trade.** *Source: U.S. Department of State, October 2004*
- **Since 1995, more than 88,000 children have been rescued, rehabilitated and/or protected from trafficking through international efforts.** *Source: U.S. Department of Labor. December 2004*



to hurt their families in Peru if they tried to escape.

Since being rescued, all 56 people have been provided with housing and victim services. The traffickers have been arrested and are being held without bail.

**U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT COMMITS \$18.65 MILLION TO COMBAT ADULT AND CHILD TRAFFICKING**

*Washington, D.C.  
September 2004*

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded grants of \$3.75 million to combat trafficking in Brazil, Cambodia, Moldova and Sierra Leone, and \$14.9 million to address trafficking of children for exploitative labor in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific. "Trafficking in human beings is an evil that targets mostly women and children, whose suffering can scarcely be imagined," said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. The grants will fund educational and job-training programs for victims of trafficking.

**TOKYO TO PUNISH SEX ACTS WITH MINORS**

*Tokyo, Japan*

The Tokyo metropolitan government will establish a regulation to punish adults who engage in sexual acts with partners who are under 18 years old, regardless of whether any money changes hands. Once the rule is in place, anyone over 18 years old who engages in sexual acts with anyone under 18 will face up to two years in jail or a fine of up to 1 million yen.

**\$50 BABY**

*Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

Police in Cambodia arrested 39-year-old Pech Tho as she tried to cross the border into Thailand with a one-month-old baby boy. The woman had bought the baby from his parents and promised to pay \$50 as soon as she sold the baby in Thailand. Tho was to meet another woman, Danh Dara, in Thailand who would then take the baby on to Malaysia. Tho, Dara and the baby's parents have all been charged with child smuggling.

**FBI TO INVESTIGATE SEX TRAFFICKING**

*Denver, Co  
January 2005*

The FBI is planning to investigate a ring of Denver sex traffickers who deal in teens as young as 13, reportedly providing them mostly to truck drivers. Denver is one of about a dozen cities that the FBI has identified as active in a nationwide ring of sex traffickers. The trafficking ring has allegedly forced girls as young as 13 to travel from Oklahoma to cities such as Denver, Houston, and Miami to work in the sex trade industry. Many of the girls are runaways.

**U.S. POLICE RESCUE 56 TRAFFICKED PERUVIANS**

*Long Island, New York  
September 2004*

Authorities in Long Island, New York rescued 56 Peruvian men, women and children who were trafficked to the United States. Federal authorities raided three houses on June 21, exposing what is reported to be one of the largest trafficking rings found in the U.S. Those rescued told of being forced to work in as many as three jobs at a time for as long as 16 hours a day for up to four years. Authorities say that the traffickers controlled every aspect of their lives forcing the workers to hand over all of their earnings.

Many were told they owed up to \$12,500 for being brought to the U.S., but the debts never diminished. The three traffickers, a Peruvian family living in Long Island, lured people with promises of visas and work. But when they arrived, the family confiscated their passports and threatened to have them deported or

## RESOURCES

### RECENT MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

#### DOCUMENTARY: HUMAN TRAFFIC

*MTV Exit*

This 30-minute documentary, narrated by Angelina Jolie, follows the stories of real people affected by trafficking. Broadcasted on February 10, the documentary will also be made available free of charge to broadcasters worldwide.

*For more information, visit:*

<http://www.mtvexit.org/mtv3/homepage.jsp?langid=1>

#### DOCUMENTARY: BORN INTO BROTHELS

*India 2004*

The most stigmatized people in Sonagachi, Calcutta's red light district are not the prostitutes, but their children. In the face of abject poverty, abuse and despair, these children have little possibility of escaping their mothers' fate and creating a different life. Devoid of sentimentality, *Born into Brothels* defies the typical tear-stained tourist snapshot of the global underbelly. Its creator spends years with these children and becomes part of their lives. *For more information, contact:* [RossKauffman@earthlink.net](mailto:RossKauffman@earthlink.net)

#### TSUNAMI DISASTER PUTS FOCUS ON CHILD TRAFFICKING

*NPR Morning Edition*  
*January 7, 2005*

NPR reporter Rachel Jones reports on concerns that children orphaned by the tsunami disaster are being kidnapped or sold into slavery. Though most such reports have proven false, authorities in countries affected by the disaster are taking steps to protect young victims from exploitation.

*To listen to the report, visit:*

<http://www.npr.org>

### RECENT PRESS RELEASES

#### CAMBODIA: ATTACK ON TRAFFICKING SHELTER

*U.S. Department of State*  
*December 9, 2004*

In this statement, the U.S. strongly condemns the December 8 attack in Phnom Penh on the non-governmental organization, Agir pour les Femmes En Situation Précaire--Acting for Women in Distressing Situations (AFESIP). This NGO, which receives U.S. and international assistance, provides shelter and support to trafficking victims in Cambodia. Armed assailants abducted all but one of the 91 women and children under AFESIP's care. Just one day earlier, Cambodia's Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department under General Un Sokunthea had rescued 84 of them from a hotel notorious as a brothel for sex trafficking of children.

*To view the full press release, visit:*

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2004/39641.htm>

#### FOUR COUNTRIES AVOID POSSIBLE SANCTIONS

*Statement by the White House Press Secretary*  
*September 10, 2004*

In this statement, the Press Secretary praises the efforts taken by the governments of Bangladesh, Ecuador, Guyana and Sierra Leone to fight trafficking in persons. The statement also discusses sanctions to be imposed on Burma, Cuba and North Korea as a result of a failure to comply with the Trafficking Act's minimum standards.

*To view the full statement, visit:*

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/prsrl/36129.htm>

#### HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS CALL FOR FOCUSING ATTENTION ON MOST VULNERABLE TSUNAMI SURVIVORS

*United Nations*  
*January 11, 2005*

In this public statement, the United Nations warns that many children separated from their families or left orphaned due to the tsunami disaster will require immediate attention to protect them from trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

*To view the full press release, visit:*

<http://www.unhcr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/NewsRoom?OpenFrameSet>

#### DOJ HUMAN TRAFFICKING GRANTS SUPPORT THE CREATION OF LOCAL TASK FORCES

*Department of Justice*  
*November 23, 2004*

Assistant Attorney General R. Alexander Acosta of the Civil Rights Division, Assistant Attorney General Christopher A. Wray of the Criminal Division and U.S. Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein of the District of Columbia announced that \$7.6 million in grants were awarded to state and local law enforcement to combat human trafficking crimes.

In D.C., Michael A. Mason, Assistant Director of the FBI's Washington Field Office, and Metropolitan Police Department Chief Charles Ramsey announced the creation of a taskforce that will collaborate with a number of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations to address the increasing problem of human trafficking within Washington, D.C.

*To view the full press release, visit:*

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/press.htm>

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS, FACT SHEETS AND NEWSLETTERS

### ANNOTATED GUIDE TO INTERNET- BASED COUNTER TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

*Regional Clearing Point Programm, 2004*

This annotated guide to counter-trafficking resources is a tool for individuals and organizations working in the field of counter-trafficking in Southeastern Europe. The objective is to provide counter-trafficking organizations with information about accessible resources that can be of assistance in their counter-trafficking work. The guide is compiled by the Regional Clearing Point (RCP) programme which was established in 2002 under the framework of the Stability Pact Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings in order to ensure standardized regional data on victim assistance and protection and to support the further development of victim assistance throughout Southeastern Europe. Electronic copies of the guide can be requested from Slavica Stojkovic at [ssojkovic@iom.int](mailto:ssojkovic@iom.int).

### THE ROLE OF VICTIM SUPPORT AGENCIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

*Lessons from Thailand,  
Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar*

*Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People  
Trafficking  
June 2004*

This report was drawn from the experiences of the Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking Project, an initiative of the Australian Government that aims to prevent trafficking in persons through improving the criminal justice response. The report outlines key factors in developing relationships between the criminal justice system and victim support agencies and examines the actual nature of these relationships in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao and Myanmar.

*To read the full report, visit:*  
<http://www.arcppt.org>

### BROKEN PROMISES, SHATTERED DREAMS

*A Profile of Child Trafficking in LAO PDR*

*UNICEF & Ministry of Labour and Social Wel-  
fare, LAO PDR  
October 2004*

This study found cases of child trafficking from each of the seventeen provinces surveyed, from the far north to the far south of the country. Trafficking occurs both internally and across borders, particularly to Thailand. The study describes the types of exploitation trafficking victims from Lao PDR are subjected to, including domestic servitude, commercial sexual exploitation and factory work.

*To read the full study, visit:*  
<http://www.unicef.org/media/files/BrokenPromisesFULLREPORT.pdf>

### IMPROVING PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE

*Care for Children In Emergency Situations:  
Implications for International Standards*

*International Social Service & UNICEF  
November 2004*

This paper is one of a series that deals in greater depth with selected complex issues broached in the Working Paper prepared by UNICEF and International Social Service on "Improving Protection for Children in Out-of-Home Care: a Call for International Standards." It focuses on special concerns and problems that must be taken into account when considering out-of-home care for children affected by armed conflict and other emergency situations. It also addresses the ramifications for future international standards in this sphere.

*To view the full paper, visit:*  
<http://www.unicef.org>

### HIDDEN SLAVES: FORCED LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES

*Free the Slaves and the Human Rights Center of  
University of California, Berkley  
September 2004*

This report details the nature and scope of forced labor in the United States from January 1998 to December 2003. It is the first study to examine the numbers, demographic characteristics and origins of victims and perpetrators of forced labor in the U.S. In addition, the report assesses the sufficiency of U.S. response to this burgeoning issue in the wake of the ratification of the VTVPA of 2000.

*The study is available at:*  
[http://www.freetheslaves.net/resources/pdfs/Hidden\\_Slaves.pdf](http://www.freetheslaves.net/resources/pdfs/Hidden_Slaves.pdf)

### MANUAL FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT: TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN FOR LABOR AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN THE BALKANS AND UKRAINE

*International Labour Organization and Interna-  
tional Programme on the Elimination of Child  
Labour, 2004*

Prepared by the Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, this document provides an outline for conducting a rapid evaluation on labor and sexual exploitation of trafficked children victims from Ukraine, Moldova, Albania and Romania. The survey concentrates on boys and girls under the age of eighteen who are trafficked or exposed to trafficking both in overseas and in local contexts. The manual provides information on the assessment framework, the methodology and procedures essential for analysis, the root causes and different forms of trafficking, the daily life activities of victims, the conditions for escaping trafficking and the components successful rehabilitation.

*This report is available at:*  
<http://www.ilo.org>

## IDENTIFICATION & LEGAL ADVOCACY FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS: 2ND EDITION

*NYC Anti-Trafficking Network Legal Subcommittee*

The updated manual includes new sections on derivatives, continued presence and certification, as well as a more detailed discussion of privilege. It also incorporates the TVPRA. Hard copies should be available in late March.

For more information, visit  
<http://www.nyc-anti-trafficking.com>

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INTERIM ASSESSMENT

*U.S. Department of State  
January 3, 2005*

The Interim Assessment is intended to serve as a tool by which to gauge the anti-trafficking progress of countries that are in danger of slipping a tier in the upcoming June 2005 TIP Report, particularly those countries in danger of slipping to Tier 3. The report assesses progress governments made between May and November 2004 to address their country's key deficiencies that were highlighted in the June 2004 TIP Report.

## DOJ ANTI-TRAFFICKING NEWS BULLETIN

*US Department of Justice  
October 2004*

This issue of the DOJ bulletin highlights recent developments in the American-Mexican anti-trafficking partnership and includes an article about Florida's new Anti-Trafficking Task Forces.

To view the full news bulletin online, visit:  
[http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_newsletter/antitraffnews\\_oct04.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_newsletter/antitraffnews_oct04.pdf)

## FLORIDA FREEDOM PARTNERSHIP (FFP) NEWSLETTER

*Volume 1, Issue 1  
December 2004*

This issues provides information about a Human Trafficking case in Florida, U.S. vs. Cuello, in which Mexican immigrants were forced to labor and live in squalid conditions in order to pay off smuggling debts.

To view the current and past monthly issues, visit: <http://www.FloridaFreedom.org>

## TRAFFICKING NEWS MONTHLY

*Anti-Slavery  
International  
January 2005*

This page contains news about important initiatives intended to combat trafficking, protect trafficked people and address the root causes of the problem. It also addresses the promotion of migrants' rights. It is updated on a monthly basis. This month's edition includes news about the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) recent declaration against trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

View the full online newsletter at:  
<http://www.antislavery.org>

## ANTI-SLAVERY ANNUAL REVIEW 2004

*Anti-Slavery International*

Provides an overview of Anti-Slavery International's work throughout the year, including financial information.



To view the full report, visit:  
<http://www.antislavery.org>

## VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS: AN ACTION PLAN FOR MONITORING, REPORTING AND RESPONSE

*Watchlist on Children in Armed Conflict  
October 2004*

This paper presents a practical and detailed Action Plan for a system that would enable the Security Council, the Secretary-General and all others obligated to protect effectively the security and rights of children in armed conflicts to monitor, document and respond to violations. This Action Plan addresses various activities that must be carried out at the local, country, regional and international levels and the actors that would carry out this work.

To see the full report, visit:  
<http://www.watchlist.org/advocacy/policystatements/vacdac.pdf>

## TRAFFICKING ALERT

*Vital Voices Global Partnership  
December 2004*

In the last issue of 2004, Trafficking Alert focused on the subject of civil rights for trafficking victims. The aware-

ness of pursuing civil remedies remains relatively low in the anti-trafficking community. For this reason, the Trafficking Alert featured an article with interviews of three civil rights attorneys to explore the benefits and the empowering factors of civil litigations for victims of trafficking in the United States.

To read this issue, visit:

[http://www.vitalvoices.org/desktopdefault.aspx?page\\_id=162](http://www.vitalvoices.org/desktopdefault.aspx?page_id=162)

### **FACT SHEET: ENDING CHILD SEX TOURISM: FIGHTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

*Bureau of Public Affairs  
September 2, 2004*

This fact sheet addresses what nations can do to fight child sex tourism and the exploitation of minors abroad. It discusses the "Three Ps" in combating trafficking in persons: *prevention*, *protection* of victims and *prosecution* of perpetrators. The document also includes statistics regarding U.S. efforts and international cooperation in the fight against trafficking.

To view the fact sheet, visit: <http://www.state.gov/p/io/fs/2004/36409.htm>

### **FACT SHEET: CITIZEN ACTION: HOW CAN I HELP END MODERN-DAY SLAVERY?**

*Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons  
August 9, 2004*

This fact sheet provides recommendations to the public on fighting human trafficking including: increasing public awareness through public forums, joining the efforts of anti-trafficking organizations, speaking to government officials and reporting suspected cases.

To view the fact sheet, visit:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/fs/35011.htm>

## **LEGISLATION & CASELAW**

### **LEGISLATION**

#### **U.S. Senate Approves Bill Assisting Abandoned Alien Children**

On October 11, the Senate approved, by unanimous consent, a substitute amendment to a bill (S. 1129, this bill was reintroduced on January 25, 2005 as the "Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005", S.119) that would set standards for the treatment of unaccompanied alien children.

Sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act would require immigration authorities to transfer the custody of unaccompanied children to the Office of Refugee Resettlement within 72 hours. The measure would authorize such sums as necessary for the Departments of Homeland Security, Justice, and Health and Human Services to comply with the bill.

S. 1129 would require that every unaccompanied alien minor be given access to legal counsel, but would specify that the federal government would not pay for the child's attorney representation. The bill also would require that states be reimbursed for the expenses they incurred while providing assistance to unaccompanied children. The measure would require the director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement to develop a witness protection program for children who are victims of trafficking or alien smuggling. Finally, the bill would require the State Department to include an assessment of foreign countries' efforts to protect children from traffickers and smugglers in its annual report on human rights.

Both S.1129 as amended and the reintroduced S.119, the "Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005", lower the

age of eligibility for special immigrant juvenile status from 21 to 18. *Source:* <http://www.womenspolicy.org/the-source/issue.cfm?IssueID=191>

*Special Note: It is expected that a number of pieces of legislation will be introduced in the 109th Congress that will address the issue of trafficking and its vulnerable victims.*

### **CASELAW**

#### **Summary of Recent Notable Trafficking Prosecutions and Convictions**

*Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division*

On September 8, 2004, Gary Gates and Tamisha Heyward were sentenced for operating a child sex trafficking operation in Washington, D.C. Gates, who pled guilty on May 13, 2004, was sentenced to 178 months in prison and fined \$1,000. Heyward, who pled guilty on June 23, 2004, was sentenced to 108 months in prison; 5 years supervised release and fined \$5,000. At the time of their guilty pleas, the two admitted to running the criminal scheme from their home, where they kept girls as young as 14 who they forced to perform multiple sex acts. Gates admitted to beating the girls who disobeyed him and to sexually assaulting many of his victims.



The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals issued its ruling in *United States v. Pipkins* on August 2, 2004. Thirteen defendants pled guilty and two were convicted for their roles in a commercial sexual exploitation scheme. Between 1997 and 2001 the men held numerous girls and women against their will and forced them to perform repeated commercial sex acts. At least one of their victims was as young as twelve years old. The Court

upheld the convictions and sentences of the ringleaders, who had appealed. The Eleventh Circuit upheld the use of the federal racketeering statute against a loose confederation of self-described pimps, ruled that the evidence was sufficient to support a slavery conviction, and upheld the application of the criminal sexual abuse sentencing guideline to the case.



On September 27, a New York man was charged with sex trafficking, kidnapping, sexual abuse, obstruction of justice and other crimes in connection with his alleged participation in a sex trafficking scheme led by a Brooklyn couple. The couple, along with a Department of Homeland Security agent, were charged on February 2nd for their roles in this trafficking scheme. On July 1st, an additional defendant was indicted for conspiracy to obstruct justice when he attempted to conceal business records and other documents from the bar run by the Korean couple leading the scheme. It is alleged that the couple would lure Korean women to NYC with the promise of good jobs as hostesses in nightclubs. The women found instead that they were the victims of rape and physical abuse.

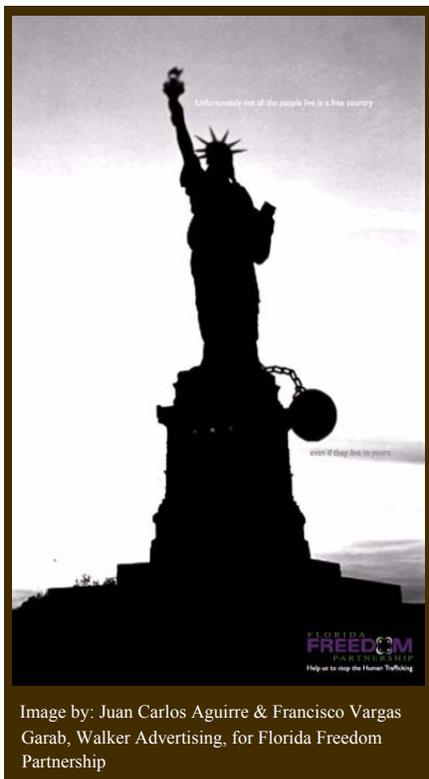
According to the government, the couple forced their victims to entertain patrons at their nightclub and submit to commercial sex acts upon demand. They maintained their hold over their victims through violence, threats, and an extortionate debt. The Department of Homeland Security agent became a part of the scheme by allegedly attempting to force one of the victims to get on a flight to South Korea to keep her from testifying against the couple. All five defendants are currently awaiting trial.



After pleading guilty to the sex trafficking of children on September 14, 2004,

Theodore Love, Jr was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison. Love admitted to the sexual commercial exploitation of a 13 year old girl. Love, a long-time pimp, advertised his "Love Zone" escort service online. He met the 13-year old victim on a telephone dating line and corresponded with her by phone and e-mail. He recruited her and provided her with a fake ID saying she was 18 before sending her into street prostitution.

Jose Reyes Rojas pleaded guilty to sex trafficking in August and was sentenced on November 23, 2004 to four years and nine months in prison. Rojas's younger brother Juan, was sentenced to five years and 11 months in prison after pleading guilty to fraudulently inducing a 16 year-old Mexican girl and another Mexican minor into coming to the U.S.



The two men admitted to forcing their victims to do multiple sex acts with between 10 and 25 men a night in Atlanta. Juan Reyes Rojas would induce the girls to come to the U.S. with promises of legitimate employment or promises of long term romance. Jose Reyes

Rojas helped finance the smuggling of the juveniles and assisted with the transportation to Atlanta.

A third brother, Raul Reyes Rojas, is a co-defendant but remains a fugitive charged with sex trafficking, conspiracy and immigration-related offenses.



Jose Ibanez and his wife Mailuz Zavala pled guilty to labor trafficking charges on November 5, 2004. In a five year period of time, June 1999-June 2004, the couple smuggled more than 60 Peruvians including children for a smuggling fee that ranged from \$6,000-\$13,000 per person. They then forced them into labor with threats of deportation and confiscation of their passports and forced them to turn over most of their earnings. The couple then used this money to finance their homes, other real estate, and vehicles and to pay their living expenses. As a result of their pleas on conspiracy counts, they will forfeit their home and bank accounts for a total value of \$205,000.



Maria de Jesus Valle-Maldonado, a "madam" at a Los Angeles brothel, pled guilty to commercial sexual exploitation and was sentenced to four and a half years in federal prison and ordered to pay \$135, 542 to nine victims. Valle-Maldonado is the fourth person to be convicted as a result of a trafficking investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement that uncovered the brothel. Maria and her accomplices brought some 12 Mexican women and girls into the U.S. and forced the to perform commercial sex act. Some of the victims were young as 14 years old.

## **Sentencing and Restitution in Federal Trafficking Cases**

Fox v. Encounters International  
(D. Md. 02-1563)

On November 18, 2004, Nataliya Fox, a Ukrainian woman, won a landmark victory in a Maryland federal district court against Encounters International ("EI"), an international marriage broker ("IMB," also known as a "mail-order bride" agency) that had arranged her marriage to a violent American man. A unanimous jury held EI liable for failing to tell Nataliya-as they were legally required to do-about a federal law that allows foreign nationals to escape abusive marriages without fear of automatic deportation, and for actively misleading her about her legal options. The jury also found EI liable for misrepresenting that it screened male clients when it did not; and publicizing Nataliya's marriage to Mr. Fox as an EI "success" story, without her permission, even after she fled to a domestic violence shelter. EI and its President were ordered to pay Nataliya \$433,500 in damages, \$341,500 of which was punitive damages assessed for their egregious violations of their duty of care to Nataliya.

## **Congressional Hearings**

The Helsinki Committee and House Armed Services Committee Issue Forum on "Enforcing U.S. Policies Against Trafficking in Persons: How is the U.S. Military Doing?"

*Washington, D.C.*  
*September 2004*

On September 21, 2004 the House Armed Services Committee held an Issue Forum to assess the Department of Defense's anti-trafficking policy and examine the implementation a January 2004 policy directive on human trafficking issued by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. In addition, the Department of Defense's implemen-

tation efforts were examined within the context of the overall U.S. Government policy and efforts on combating trafficking in persons. The Issue Forums provide members of the committee the opportunity to informally discuss current matters of importance with selected experts, scholars, opinion makers and government officials.

The January 2004 directive was the result of investigations done by Defense Inspector General Joseph Schmitz in South Korea, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosova after a 2002 investigative report aired by Cleveland, Ohio's Fox Affiliate WJW-TV. The news report indicated that U.S. troops in South Korea were patronizing bars and other establishments where women from the Philippines and former Soviet states were trafficked into forced prostitution. After Representative Christopher Smith (R-NJ), the Chairman of the Helsinki Commission joined by a number of his colleagues wrote to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld demanding an immediate investigation into these allegations, Defense Inspector General Schmitz conducted his investigation and issued two reports. The reports assessed U.S. military policies and practices with respect to activity that might fuel sex trafficking and prostitution. The reports included a number of recommendations for the Department of Defense (DoD) including the creation of a new department policy on trafficking.

The January 2004 directive stated in part:

"[I]t is the policy of the Department of Defense that trafficking in persons will not be facilitated in any way by the activities of our Service members, civilian employees, indirect hires, or DoD contract personnel. Followin the policy set by the Commander-in-Chief, DoD opposes prostitution and any related activities that may contribute to the phenomenon of trafficking in persons as inherently harmful and dehumanizing."

Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz's directive had four specific objectives, including anti-trafficking education requirements for all service members and DoD civilians serving overseas and the incorporation of language in all DoD contracts for services overseas reflecting such trafficking-related prohibitions.

## **POLICY UPDATES**

### **Mekong Children Offer Governments Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking Action Plan**

*International Labor Organization and Save the Children*

*Bangkok, Thailand*  
*October 15, 2004*

Young delegates participating in the Mekong Children's Forum on Human Trafficking presented a comprehensive action plan on human trafficking to government officials from five Mekong countries directly affected by human trafficking - Cambodia, China, Laos PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. This action plan, known as the Mekong Children's Recommendations for Action on Human Trafficking, encompasses four days of consultation and debate among children from the Mekong sub-region.

Recommendations proposed in this plan include closing down establishments linked to the sex trade, addressing corruption and bribery from human trafficking criminals, designating an international day for combating trafficking and ensuring greater participation from children on anti-trafficking initiatives. The Mekong Children's Recommendations for Action also specifically address the need for free, high-quality education for children especially in high-risk trafficking areas and promoting anti-trafficking awareness activities in pri-

mary and secondary school curriculums. Finally, the delegates highlighted the need for parents to take a more active role in protecting their children from traffickers and the need for society to take responsibility in supporting and rehabilitating victims of trafficking.

The Mekong Children's Forum was the first opportunity for children, a population who is most vulnerable to being trafficked, to actively engage in influencing policy with local and sub-regional governments. Delegates were selected by their peers based on their knowledge in dealing with this issue. Some participants also had first-hand experience with labor and sexual exploitation. Delegates presented recommendations on their own countries.

The timely creation of the Mekong Children's Recommendations comes at a juncture when governments in the Greater Mekong sub-region are in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding to combat cross-border trafficking within the context of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking.

*For more information about the Mekong Children's Forum, please visit:*  
<http://www.mekongchildrensforum.com>

### **Review of Defense Department's Efforts to Combat Trafficking**

*Helsinki Commission and House Armed Services Committee*

*Washington, D.C.  
September 21, 2004*

The U.S. Helsinki Commission and the House Committee of Armed Services convened in September 2004 for an Issue Forum on Trafficking in Persons and the U.S. Military. The Issue Forum examined the Department of Defense's (DoD) efforts to implement its zero-tolerance policy on trafficking in persons issued by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wol-

fowitz in January 2004. This policy was issued in response to an investigative report, aired in March 2002, revealing that U.S. troops in South Korea were patronizing bars and other establishments where women from the Philippines and former Soviet states were trafficked and forced into prostitution.

Following the broadcast, Helsinki Commission Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and other members of Congress communicated with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and requested an investigation into the authenticity of the report, as well as a reassessment of the appropriateness of U.S. military policies and responses to prostitution and human trafficking. This action triggered DoD Inspector General Joseph Schmitz to conduct investigations in South Korea, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Kosovo. His assessments were compiled into two reports and contained numerous recommendations for action by the DoD, including the development of a new department policy on trafficking. Following the report, a human trafficking directive was issued. It focused on four specific objectives, including anti-trafficking education requirements for DoD civilians and all service members and the inclusion of anti-trafficking language into DoD contracts for overseas services.

During the Issue Forum, a number of notable updates on the implementation of the January 2004 directive included: a human trafficking training program has been developed and will be distributed to the troops by November 2004; an online version will be made available by January 2005 for global access; a change in the language in DoD contracts is in progress; and in Korea, a 24-hour hotline has been established and over 600 establishments have been placed off-limits.

*An un-official transcript of the Issue Forum is available at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe website:* [http://www.csce.gov/briefings.cfm?briefing\\_id=287](http://www.csce.gov/briefings.cfm?briefing_id=287).

### **South Korean Government Hosts Expert Group Meeting on Trafficking**

*Government of the Republic of Korea  
Seoul, Korea  
November 2004*

An expert group meeting was held in 2004 to discuss the prevention of international trafficking and promotion of a public awareness campaign. Co-hosted by the Korean Ministries of Gender Equality and Justice with support from the International Organization for Migration, the gathering was the second of three scheduled events. The first meeting was held in September 2004 and introduced two significant legislative articles that directly addressed the sex trade and protection of victims.

Information shared during this meeting focused on the identification of victims, the referral system, victim security, the designation of reception centers, legal assistance, reintegration and rehabilitation, public awareness campaigns and health. The meeting also enabled key officials to address pending issues from the Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime that was held in Indonesia in February 2002.

*To view the meeting agenda, please visit:*  
<http://www.iom.int>

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGAL OUREACH Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative Northern California

Founded in 1975, the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (API Legal Outreach) is a community-based social justice organization serving the Asian and Pacific Islander communities of the Greater Bay Area. In 2003, API Legal Outreach was funded by the Office for Victims of Crime to implement the Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative. The program's primary objectives are: (1) to stabilize and empower victims by providing direct legal representation and comprehensive social services with appropriate language assistance and cultural sensitivity; (2) to expand the shelter, social and legal service resources available to trafficking victims; and (3) to ensure, through training and technical assistance, that law enforcement and governmental agencies are well trained and that they treat trafficked persons as victims of human rights violations rather than as criminals or "illegal" immigrants.

The Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative accomplishes these objectives by representing clients for immigration relief. This legal representation includes supporting clients during law enforcement interrogations for obtaining T and U visas and assisting with family law issues, domestic violence and criminal defense. The project also provides comprehensive social services in the form of medical attention, psychological coun-

seling, assistance with public benefits and long-term shelter relief. The project also provides anti-trafficking trainings to local law enforcement, U.S. Attorney's offices and other service providers and implements capacity-building measures for shelters and non-profits needing technical assistance.

With a geographic focus in Northern California, the Asian Anti-Trafficking Collaborative involves the cooperation of five partners: API Legal Outreach (Oakland), the Asian Women's Shelter (Greater Bay Area), Cameron House (Chinatown, San Francisco), Narika (East Bay), and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund of NYC. This collaborative effort has enjoyed significant achievements since its initiation. These achievements include training over 1000 law enforcement officials and first responders, training 1500 non-profit workers and service providers, testifying at state and federal legislative hearings, and providing technical assistance internationally to Thailand and Indonesia to enhance their own trafficking policies.

For more information about this program, please visit <http://www.apilegaloutreach.org> or contact: Ivy Lee at [ilee@apilegaloutreach.org](mailto:ilee@apilegaloutreach.org).



Mosaic Family Services, Inc. is a non-profit community based organization targeting culturally diverse and medically indigent families living in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex.

The goals of the Services for Victims of Trafficking Program at Mosaic Family Services include: educating immigrants and mainstream communities about

issues relating to trafficking and immigrant needs and providing culturally and linguistically competent services to victims experiencing abuse, so that they may quickly recover from a criminal act, aid in the criminal justice process, and increase economic self-sufficiency.

Mosaic also serves victims of trafficking through its Family Violence Program which has the primary mission of reducing and preventing violence against women of racial, cultural, ethnic, and language minority groups.

Services provided by this program include: community outreach and education to immigrants and service providers; consultation and interpretation in family violence matters; resource referrals; and comprehensive, community based case management and advocacy, including crisis intervention, transportation, and assistance with accessing various service needs. They provide direct legal representation and advocacy to enhance the safety of victims and strengthen their economic autonomy and offer life-skills education and after-care services including counseling, English language and parenting classes. The agency also operates Mosaic's Transitional House, the only shelter in the area for immigrant and refugee women and children experiencing domestic violence. Residents of the transitional house receive all program services provided in the non-residential family violence programs, as well as immediate shelter, in-house food and clothing, etc. A 24-hour hotline is available. Individuals of any racial, cultural, ethnic or language minority group experiencing domestic violence may request services of the Multicultural Family Violence Programs.

*For more information on Services for Victims of Trafficking or the Multicultural Family Violence Program at Mosaic Family Services contact Program Director Irina Nguyen at [irinan@mosaic-services.org](mailto:irinan@mosaic-services.org) or Deputy Director Bill Bernstein at [billb@mosaic-services.org](mailto:billb@mosaic-services.org) or visit: <http://www.mosaic-services.org/>*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2005

#### TRAINING

##### **Essentials of Trauma-Sensitive Child Welfare Services Competence on Call - A Teleconference Series**

*Sponsor: Child Welfare League of America*

Washington, D.C.  
February 24, 2005

This session provides child welfare workers with an overview of eight essential elements of services to children and their families who have experienced traumatic stress. Through a simulated worker-supervisor consultation, presenters will explore trauma-specific issues at key points in a case, including some that might be misinterpreted or overlooked. For selected elements, presenters will discuss tips for recognizing a child's needs, evidence-based recommendations for service planning and "first-aid" suggestions for dealing with urgent situations. The session also introduces more extensive resources for child welfare training, supervision and individualized skill-building training that will be available from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

*For more information, contact: Naomi Goldman (617)769-4003 or email: [ngoldman@cwla.org](mailto:ngoldman@cwla.org)*

#### CONFERENCE

##### **19th Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse**

*Sponsor: Prevent Child Abuse Texas*

Westin Park Central Hotel  
Dallas, TX  
February 21-22, 2005

A statewide conference designed to offer quality training and information on topics and model programs of interest to leaders in child abuse prevention: social workers, counselors, educators, child care and youth workers, law enforcement personnel, medical and legal professionals, foster parents, child welfare board volunteers, elected officials and other interested child advocates. Participants may attend their choice of a variety of workshops on child abuse and neglect prevention or may select workshops for specialized training credits and professional development.

*For more information, visit:*  
<http://preventchildabusetexas.org>

### MARCH 2005

#### CAMPAIGN

##### **Nationwide Trafficking Prevention Information Campaign in Ukraine**

*Sponsor: IOM Ukraine and its 25 partner NGOS*

IOM Ukraine and its NGO partners will conduct a nationwide information campaign designed to improve current understanding about trafficking in human beings. A recent nationwide survey in Ukraine showed that while 99% of respondents know that trafficking happens to people when they go abroad,

only 20% believed it could happen to them. To address this gap in understanding, the campaign's theme will be "Human Trafficking: It Can Happen to Anyone." The campaign will have TV and radio public service announcements, billboard and transport ads as well as brochures and posters. This information campaign is funded by the European Union under the project, "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Ukraine."

*For more information about the information campaign or IOM Ukraine's counter-trafficking program, please contact the IOM Ukraine Communications Focal Point, Wendy Lu McGill, at (38-044-568-5015) or email: [wmcgill@iom.kiev.ua](mailto:wmcgill@iom.kiev.ua)*

#### MEETING

##### **New Jersey Anti-Trafficking Coalition's Statewide Meeting**

*Sponsor: New Jersey Anti-Trafficking Initiative*

Lafayette Yard Marriot Conference Hotel  
Trenton, NJ  
March 18, 2005 (RSVP by March 4)

*For more information on this statewide meeting and to confirm your attendance, contact: Lori Hopper at 201-653-3888, extension 138 or email: [lhopper@iinj.org](mailto:lhopper@iinj.org)*

#### TRAINING

##### **Institute on Victim Studies: Critical Analysis of Victim Assistance**

*Sponsor: Joint Center on Violence and Victim Studies*

Washburn University  
Topeka, Kansas  
March 7 - 11, 2005

The Institute on Victim Studies: Critical Analysis of Victim Assistance is a multi-disciplinary professional education program that challenges professionals to critically reflect on the practices, policies and societal responses of victim assistance. Participants will explore the meanings and assumptions that underlie practice and policy, thereby gaining greater insights for the development of strategies to effect change. The goal of the program is not only to increase content knowledge but also to facilitate professional action.

For more information, contact: Thomas Underwood at (800)910-4308, email: [thomas.underwood@washburn.edu](mailto:thomas.underwood@washburn.edu) or visit: <http://www.washburn.edu/news>

## **CONFERENCES**

### **21st National Symposium on Child Abuse**

Sponsor: National Children's Advocacy Center

Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Alabama  
March 8 - 11, 2005

More than 140 state-of-the-art workshops will be offered to professionals working in Law Enforcement, Mental Health/Treatment, Medical Services, Child Protective Service, Administration, Legal Services, Prevention, and Victim Advocacy. CEUs and CMEs will be offered. Evening activities will provide networking opportunities.

For more information contact Marilyn Grundy at (256)327-3863 or email: [grundy@nationalcac.org](mailto:grundy@nationalcac.org)

### **The Color of Violence III: Stopping the War on Women of Color!**

Sponsor: Incite! Women of Color Against Violence

New Orleans, Louisiana  
March 11 - 13, 2005

The many forms of violence experienced on a daily basis by women of color around the world amount to nothing less than a global war on women of color. Color of Violence III will provide an opportunity for women of color to develop and share organizing strategies to address this global assault on women of color. We will share strategies on how to stop this war on all fronts, including domestic violence, sexual violence, denial of reproductive rights, police brutality, the "War on Terror," poverty, violence against bisexual, lesbian, intersex, transgender, and Two Spirit women of color, attacks on immigrants' rights and Indian treaty rights and denial of affordable housing. INCITE! is a national activist organization of radical feminists of color advancing a movement to end violence against women of color and their communities through direct action, critical dialogue and grassroots organizing. The Color of Violence is an international gathering of women of color workers, organizers, artists, students and activists. The goals of Color of Violence III, are to: examine the various forms of violence committed against women of color, mobilize women of color to organize around all forms of violence in their lives share organizing models and build skills to strengthen grassroots organizing.

For more information, contact: Janelle White at (504)280-7285, email: [cov3\\_2005@yahoo.com](mailto:cov3_2005@yahoo.com) or visit: <http://www.incite-national.org/conf/index.html>

### **Third Annual Freedom Network (USA) Conference**

***Making the Connections: New Partnerships and Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking***

Sponsors: Freedom Network, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

Japanese American National Museum  
369 East First Street  
Los Angeles, California  
March 21-23, 2005

This interactive three-day conference will provide a forum for advocates, service providers and law enforcement to discuss new and innovative ways to combat human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Conference highlights include: advanced workshops, roundtables and plenary sessions from experts in the anti-trafficking field; screenings and discussion of top trafficking films; off-site tours to explore Los Angeles grassroots organizations working to combat trafficking; second annual Paul and Sheila Wellstone Award recognizing an individual or organization's unique and outstanding contribution in the anti-trafficking movement. Registration by February 22, 2005: \$195.00, Late Registration after February 22, 2005: \$225.00 (Registration closes March 7, 2005).

For registration information: [FNConference2005@yahoo.com](mailto:FNConference2005@yahoo.com) or call Joy Zarembka at 202-787-5244

## **APRIL 2005**

## **MEETING**

### **UNICEF Coordination Meeting**

Sponsor: UNICEF Cambodia  
No. 11, 75th Street, Sangkat Sraschark (near the British Embassy)  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
April 5, 2-5 p.m.

UNICEF Cambodia will have its third coordination meeting on TSEC awareness raising and advocacy initiatives.

For more information: (855 23) 426-214 ext. 148 or email [syeo@unicef.org](mailto:syeo@unicef.org)

## CULTURAL EVENT

### National Crime Victim's Week

Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are  
*Office of Victims of Crime*

Nationwide  
*April 10-16, 2005*

Each year the OVC helps lead communities across the country in their observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). The annual commemoration promotes victims' rights and services in all sectors of our society.

*For more information:*  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>

## CONFERENCES

### 13th Annual ATSS Conference on Trauma & Stress

"Staying Balanced in a Merry-Go-Round World"

*Sponsor: Association of Traumatic Stress Specialists*

Addison Crowne Plaza  
Dallas, Texas  
*April 4 - 9, 2005*

ATSS prepares, equips and recognizes individuals who work in the area of trauma services, response, treatment and pastoral care and who are interested in improving services to victims and survivors of traumatic events. Conference participants may select from various program areas such as: Crisis and Trauma Response; Crisis Interventions; Mental Health Treatment; Pastoral Counseling; Critical Incident and/or Disaster Response, Management; Special Victim Populations (children, elderly, eye witnesses, terrorism, work related, schools, victims with disabilities, etc.); Cultural and Diversity Issues in Trauma;

Research; Religious/Spiritual Issues; Non-traditional Therapies, Healing Practices, Best Practices and Innovations.

*For more information:* contact Jo Halligan at (512)868-3677, email: [JoHalligan@ATSS-HQ.com](mailto:JoHalligan@ATSS-HQ.com) or visit: <http://www.atss-hq.com/>

### ALERT Conference on Trafficking

Phoenix, AZ  
*April 18-19*

The Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking will be holding a two-day conference on trafficking, to be held in conjunction with the Arizona State Refugee Conference. Speakers will include Steven Wagner, Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Trafficking in Persons Program presenting on HHS' Rescue and Restore program, Antoinette AQUI, also of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presenting on trafficking in children, Nicholas Sensley of Cross-Sector Solutions and the New York City Community Response to Trafficking on law enforcement and NGO cooperation, and other local speakers. Registration for the conference is \$85. To register for the conference, please contact Katherine Christensen and Associates at 480-893-6110, or email them at [program@kca.com](mailto:program@kca.com).

*For questions regarding the conference content, please contact Melynda Barnhart of ALERT at 602-433-2441.*

---

**TRAFFICKING WATCH** is a quarterly newsletter that reports primarily on news and developments relevant to human trafficking in the United States and also includes a compilation of resources drawn from diverse sectors and fields at the local, national, and international levels to promote the exchange of information, strategies, and good practices in order to effectively combat trafficking.

*Managing Editor*  
**Christine Petrie**

*Editor*  
**Robbi Miller**

*Contributors*  
**Kristy Gladfelter**  
**Kelly Heinrich**  
**Natalia Misisic**  
**Quoc Nguyen**  
**Abigail Price**

*Design*  
**Kristy Gladfelter**

*Send comments, suggestions or announcements to: [listserv@ftp.theirc.org](mailto:listserv@ftp.theirc.org). To subscribe to Trafficking Watch, send an email to: [listserv@ftp.theirc.org](mailto:listserv@ftp.theirc.org) In the body of the message type: Subscribe traffickingwatch-list  
Firstname Lastname*

*Trafficking Watch can be downloaded from the IRC website (<http://www.theirc.org>)*

*This publication was made possible with funding from the Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

*The International Rescue Committee serves refugees and communities victimized by oppression or violent conflict worldwide. Founded in 1933, the IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is expressed in emergency relief, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement assistance, and advocacy.*



**International Rescue Committee**  
122 East 42nd St, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10168  
Tel: 212-551-3000  
Fax: 212-551-3181  
<http://www.theirc.org>