

AMANNES

Trafficking in Human Beings



CONTENTS

AMANNEE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002

| | |
|--|----|
| U.S. SEEKS TO HELP VICTIMS OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS | 1 |
| By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer. | |
| WEST AFRICAN STATES AGREE ON PLAN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING | 3 |
| By the Joint ECOWAS-UNODCCP/CICP Expert Group. | |
| TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: THE SLAVERY THAT SURROUNDS US | 4 |
| By Ann Jordan, Director, Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons International Human Rights Law Group. | |
| CHILD TRAFFICKING IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: AN OVERVIEW | 7 |
| By Dr. Rima Salah, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa. | |
| BE SMART, BE SAFE... | 11 |
| FACT SHEET: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INITIATIVES | 13 |
| FACT SHEET: U.S. ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS | 15 |
| INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES | 16 |
| HIV/AIDS EDUCATION BIKE RIDE | 17 |
| By Praya Barunch, Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Coordinator. | |
| PICTURES IN REVIEW | 18 |
| VOA ENGLISH TO AFRICA PROGRAM SCHEDULE | 19 |
| SEMINAR ON BUYUSA BY THE COMMERCIAL SERVICE OF THE US EMBASSY IN ACCRA | 20 |
| COMMERCIAL NEWS USA | 21 |

COVER PHOTO: A montage of victims of human trafficking.

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U.S. Seeks to Help Victims of Modern-Day Slavery, Trafficking in Persons

Justice Department has hot-line to report inhumane treatment

By Eric Green
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington — Mexicans and other foreign nationals being brought to the United States to work under inhumane conditions now have the full weight of the U.S. government on their side to combat what Secretary of State Colin Powell condemns as an “abomination against humanity.”

The problem, known as trafficking in persons for purposes of forced labor, involves an estimated 700,000 victims around the world who get caught up in a situation that the U.S. State Department says “amounts to modern-day slavery.” In July 2001, Powell said: “It is incomprehensible that trafficking

in persons should be taking place in the 21st century. But it is true, very true.”

Human trafficking is a particular concern in the Americas, a region that has been identified by the State Department as a major transit area for transporting victims to the United States. The victims are sometimes forced into prostitution, or end up working in dehumanizing sweatshops, the Department said. Experts in the field say that one of the most difficult realities in the trafficking issue is the propensity of governments worldwide to treat trafficked persons as criminals or unwanted undocumented workers rather than as people with human rights.

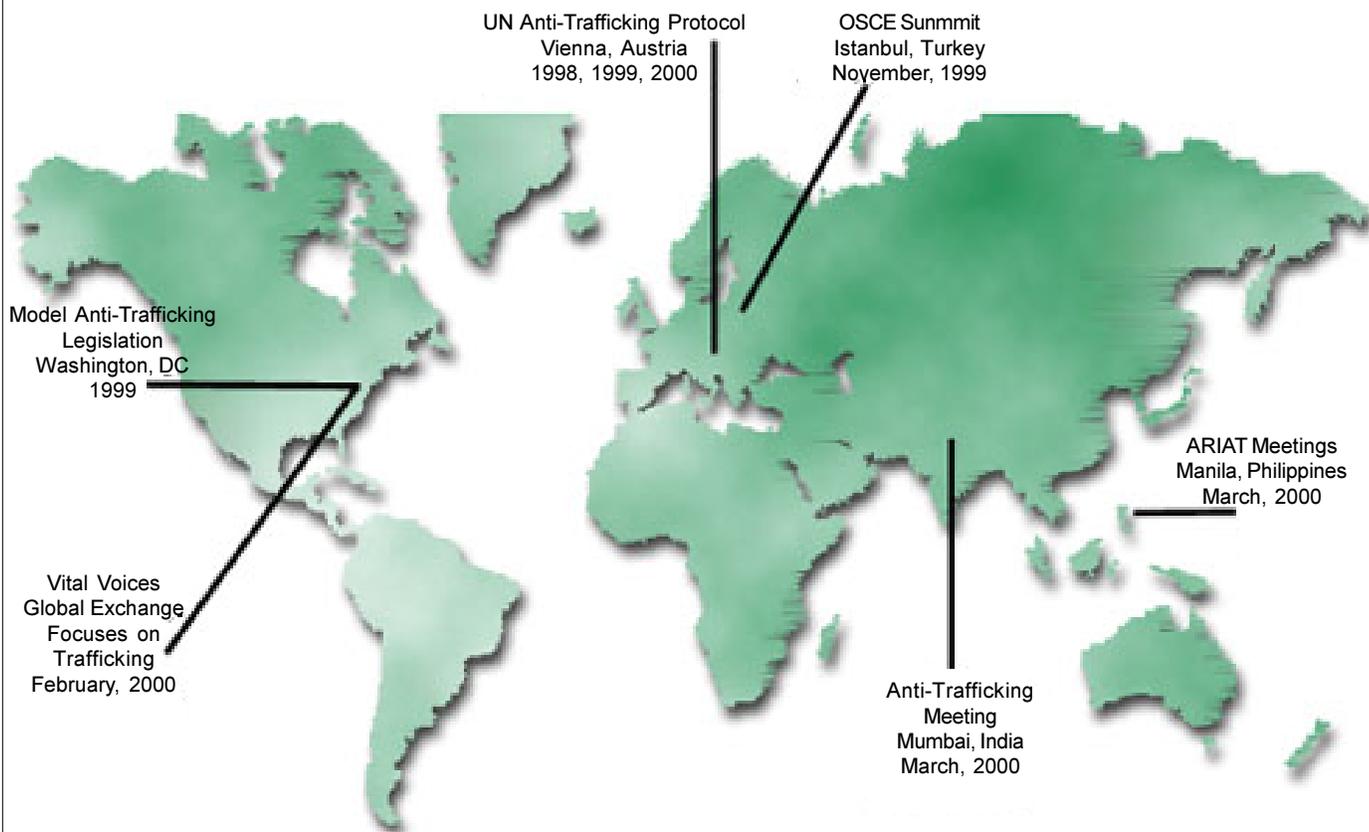
But such abuse will not be tolerated in the United States, according to an official

with the Department of Justice. He said a recently enacted U.S. law gives the federal government additional leeway to prosecute certain kinds of “servitude cases.”

“One of the things we want to make clear is that if a person is a victim of slavery, he or she should not be afraid to go to the authorities [in the United States] and report this crime,” said the official. Such guidelines also extend to victims of hate crimes, involving abuse because of someone’s race, national origin, color, or religion.

The new law, called the [Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act](#), tries to rectify a problem primarily affecting women and children. An estimated 50,000 women and children are transported into

The U.S. Government's Global Fight Against Trafficking



the United States each year, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

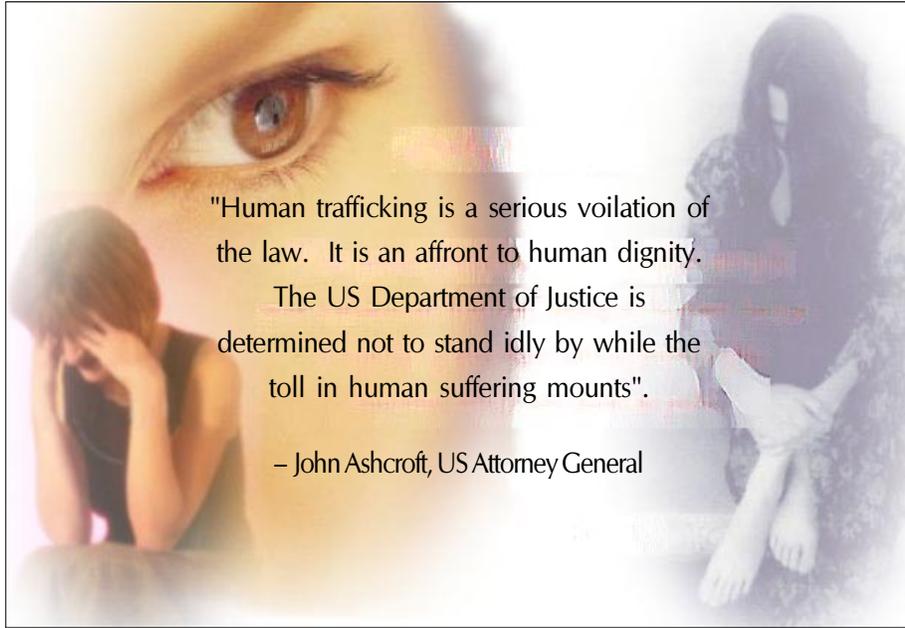
The law has far-reaching scope, such as giving prosecutors new tools to get legal immigration status for victims of trafficking. In addition, the law increases prison terms for all slavery violations from 10 years to 20 years, and adds life imprisonment when the violation involves the death, kidnapping, or sexual abuse of the victim.

The Justice Department official said the law seeks to protect victims of servitude who are fearful of reprisal should they contact the police about their dilemma. Captors try to intimidate their victims by saying they will be thrown in jail and then deported to their native land. Captors also threaten to kill their victims.

The law stipulates that an illegal immigrant reporting the crime "won't necessarily be thrown in jail, won't necessarily be deported," said the official. "You will be treated humanely, you will be given certain rights, including being allowed to stay in the United States for a certain period of time, and ... you will have benefits, including an application to work in a job." An illegal alien reporting such a crime "shouldn't be intimidated" by captors, and the law encourages victims to come forward and expose criminal activities, the official said.

The Criminal Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, which helped to enact the new law, has been enforcing statutes forbidding slavery and peonage that have been in effect for more than 100 years. Victims of trafficking and slavery in the United States can report the crime by telephoning the Justice Department's hot-line at 1-888-428-7581, which handles calls in a number of languages, including Spanish. More information about the law is available on the Justice Department's web site at: www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/tpwetf.htm.

As an example of how the trafficking operation works, the Justice official pointed to a case in the mid-1990s when a large number of young women from Veracruz, Mexico, were recruited by



"Human trafficking is a serious violation of the law. It is an affront to human dignity.

The US Department of Justice is determined not to stand idly by while the toll in human suffering mounts".

– John Ashcroft, US Attorney General

a Mexican crime family and smuggled over the U.S. border. These women were told they would be given good jobs in the restaurant business in the United States. Instead, they were brought to isolated trailers in rural parts of Florida and forced to wear suggestive clothes. They lived in the trailers under armed guard and were forced to engage in prostitution. If they refused, the women were beaten and threatened with death. Some of the women were forced to have abortions.

The Justice official said his department "got wind" of what was happening and "liberated scores of women," and that eventually a number of the smugglers were convicted. But several defendants were able to escape to Mexico before U.S. authorities were able to "get our hands on them," he added. Those people, the official said, remain at large in Mexico.

Another case involved Mexican farm workers who were smuggled into the United States and then forced to work for their captors to pay off their smuggling fees. Fees were usually \$5,000 or more, and the victims were held by threats of violence. The farm workers said they were smuggled into the United States in a van and were not allowed to leave for bathroom breaks or food. The youngest victim was 13 years old.

The Justice official said Mexico has been providing "very good cooperation" on trafficking cases, such as in locating witnesses to the crime. But the United States and Mexico need to establish even better liaison so that word spreads about the problem both north and south of the Rio Grande, said the official.

He added that while Mexico is a major source for trafficking of humans, it is

not the only one "by far." Mexico is natural source for trafficking people into the United States because of the long border the two countries share. However, the problem extends to China and into Southeast Asia, including Cambodia and Thailand; and to Eastern European countries such as Albania and Moldova. Africa is another source for human trafficking, he said.

The State Department released a congressionally-mandated "Trafficking in Persons" report in July 2001, offering a nation-by-nation account on the problem and what governments are doing to combat it. The State Department said Mexico, for example, is a source country for trafficking people into the United States, Canada and Japan. The report added that Salvadorans and Guatemalans are being trafficked into Mexico for prostitution.

The report praised Mexico's government for making "significant efforts to combat trafficking despite resource constraints and corruption." The report said the Mexican government supported general prevention campaigns for children and women, and administered assistance programs for children repatriated to Mexico.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has announced "the entry into force" of a new international accord designed to thwart the trafficking and sexual abuse of children. The accord, called the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, calls on governments to ensure that adults involved in the exploitation of children are punished. The protocol, which sets an "international norm" for how children should be treated, has been signed by the United States and 88 other countries. The United Nations said 16 countries have ratified the measure, more than enough to put it into force.***

WEST AFRICAN STATES AGREE ON PLAN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ECOWAS countries commit to urgent action, special police units

By the Joint ECOWAS-UNODCCP/CICP Expert Group, VIENNA

Foreign ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have adopted new measures to combat the problem of human trafficking in the region. The ministers adopted a political declaration and an action plan, detailing specific goals and objectives during a meeting in Dakar, Senegal December 17.

The ECOWAS ministers acted on recommendations drawn jointly by experts from ECOWAS and the United Nations Office of Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP), according to a December 20 press release from UNODCCP.

The political declaration emphasizes the commitment of heads of states to the eradication of trafficking. The action plan calls for the ratification of international protocols on trafficking, the creation of special police units to apprehend traffickers, and training for law enforcement and immigration officials to improve their detection of such crimes.

Further information on UNODCCP initiatives against human trafficking is available at http://www.undcp.org/trafficking_human_beings.html

Following is the text of the UNODCCP press release:

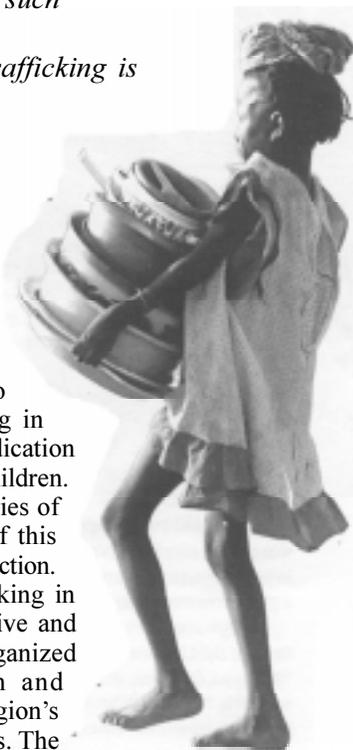
V IENNA, 20 December (UN Headquarters) — Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) countries meeting in Dakar, Senegal on 17 December, have adopted a Political Declaration and an Action Plan against trafficking in human beings in the West Africa region. Both texts, prepared by a joint ECOWAS and UNODCCP/CICP (United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention/Center for International Crime Prevention) Expert Group which met in October, were adopted without discussion and by acclamation. The ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs recommended through a Resolution to the twenty-fifth ordinary session of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Dakar

on 20-21 December 2001, the adoption of the Political Declaration and the Action Plan. The Political Declaration underscores the commitment of the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of the trafficking in persons, and in particular, the eradication of the trafficking in women and children. The declaration also sets out a series of measures mandatory in pursuit of this objective, among them the Plan of Action.

In West Africa today, trafficking in persons is a crime that is pervasive and growing. The involvement of organized crime has driven this growth and increased the number of the sub-region's citizens who suffer its depredations. The crime preys primarily on the most



UNICEF / Radhika Chalasani



Trafficking in human beings is a global phenomenon.

UNICEF / Giacomo Pirozzi

vulnerable, that is to say women, children, the poorest and the least educated. Two main types of trafficking exist in the subregion: trafficking in children mainly for domestic work and for farm labor across and within national borders; and secondly, trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation mainly outside of the subregion. Poverty is a major driving force in the rise of trafficking in persons, and women and children are easily lured into trafficking networks by recruiters who promise lucrative jobs abroad.

During a meeting held in Accra last October by ECOWAS in cooperation with UNODCCP/CICP, experts from ECOWAS member States, covering the areas of justice, interior (law enforcement, immigration, border control), and social affairs worked together to develop the Action Plan. The meeting was also attended by intergovernmental organizations such as UNICEF, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

and other interested countries. The responsible entity within ODCCP was the Center for International Crime Prevention, carrying out this initiative within the framework of its Global Program against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Plan of Action commits ECOWAS countries to urgent action against trafficking in persons in 2002-2003, setting achievable goals and objectives. It calls for countries to ratify and fully implement crucial international instruments of ECOWAS and the United Nations that strengthen laws against human trafficking and protect victims of trafficking, especially women and children.

The Action Plan calls for new special police units to combat trafficking of persons. Training for police, customs and immigration officials, prosecutors and judges, is also an important aim. This training will focus on the methods used in preventing such trafficking, prosecuting the traffickers, and protecting the rights of victims, including protecting the victims from the traffickers.

It will take into account human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues, and encourage cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society.

Under the Plan, ECOWAS States will set up direct communication between their border control agencies and expand efforts to gather data on human trafficking. The information gathered will be shared between all ECOWAS countries and the United Nations. States will create a task force or agency on trafficking in persons, as focal points to direct and monitor the ongoing implementation of this Plan of Action at the national level, and report, on a bi-annual basis, to the ECOWAS coordination structure set up within the ECOWAS Secretariat.

The 15 ECOWAS member States are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

End text.***

Trafficking in Human Beings: The Slavery that Surrounds Us

By Ann Jordan

Director, Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons International Human Rights Law Group

Nongovernmental organizations, such as the International Human Rights Law Group, have been instrumental in raising global concern about human trafficking. This author reports that significant action is still necessary to protect the human rights of the victims.

At the end of the last century, the world witnessed the growth of a modern form of slavery — trafficking in human beings. These modern traffickers treat women, men and children as commodities to abuse, sell, and move across borders like illegal drugs or stolen weapons.

Modern traffickers have many faces. They are diplomats who import domestic workers and hold them in isolation and forced labor in their homes.¹ They are members of organized criminal networks that move people into forced prostitution. Some of them are men who import foreign-born women, ostensibly for marriage, but in reality for the purpose of holding them in servitude and subjecting them to sexual abuse. Others are families that import men,

women, and children to work in forced labor in their offices, factories, and homes, and subject them to sexual and physical assault. Traffickers, then, are our next-door neighbors. Their victims are all around us. They force their victims to cook our food in neighborhood restaurants or in their own homes, sew our clothes or pick today's fresh vegetables. They could even be the foreign-born "wife" of a co-worker, or the woman held in isolation in forced prostitution in a quiet neighborhood.

One of the most difficult realities facing persons trafficked into forced labor, slavery, or servitude is the propensity of governments worldwide to treat trafficked persons as criminals or unwanted undocumented workers rather than as rights-bearing human beings. Appropriate responses — respectful of human rights in law, policy, and practice — are inadequate worldwide. Once victims manage to free themselves, or are freed by others from their captors, they are often re-victimized by governments in the destination country.

Many governments refuse to accept that human trafficking is a problem in their countries or are unwilling to address the problem given the high levels of corruption involved. Some governments view

trafficking as merely another form of undocumented migration, and so they imprison victims for immigration or labor violations and deport them. Other governments focus solely on trafficking as it relates to the sex industry, ignoring the violations committed against persons trafficked into other industries or settings. The few countries that prosecute traffickers often treat victims as "disposable witnesses" and deport them after law enforcement no longer needs their assistance.

Compounding the problem, few governments have educated their immigration officials, investigators, prosecutors, and other civil servants on how to identify potential and actual victims of trafficking. Nor have governments insisted on compliance with international law standards or domestic civil rights laws that ensure protection of the rights of the victims.

In countries that take action to combat trafficking, the primary focus is on prosecutions, border interdiction, and cross-border cooperation — actions which, taken alone, will not stem the rising tide of this crime. Persons likely to come into contact with trafficked persons must understand trafficking and how it differs from smuggling, the ways in which the psychological trauma suffered by victims affects their ability to cooperate, and the need to provide proper, rights-protective assistance and support to trafficked persons.

The international community recently took a step towards ensuring that the crime of trafficking receives universal recognition. Governments signing the new Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children² agree that trafficking is a serious international problem and is not the same as smuggling of migrants.³ The progressive, modern view contained in the protocol reflects the complicated reality of this crime: trafficking involves all forms of documented and undocumented movement of people across or within borders, by whatever means, for the purpose of slavery, forced labor, or servitude in a multitude of industries and sites.

While the Trafficking Protocol represents a tremendous step forward, it does not fully incorporate international human rights standards guaranteeing all persons, even undocumented victims of trafficking, access to justice and basic services such as temporary shelter, medical care, and food. It contains provisions ensuring some physical safety for trafficked persons who assist in prosecuting their traffickers, but it leaves provision of services and protections to the discretion of governments, even if the government has adequate financial resources or has confiscated the assets of the traffickers. The protocol does not require governments to grant temporary visas or permanent residency to victims when traffickers in the home

recognizes all forms of trafficking into forced labor, slavery, and involuntary servitude, and it authorizes a temporary visa and permanent residence for trafficked persons who are willing to comply with “reasonable” requests for cooperation and who would “suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal.” Work authorizations are available; funding is provided to service providers; foreign aid is authorized for prevention and assistance programs abroad; and federal personnel will be trained to identify and protect trafficked persons. The law is very comprehensive although some gaps remain in its coverage.

Concerned members of the public and government officials at all levels can help to improve the situation of victims by better understanding the problem and the law and by identifying potential victims in their daily work and life. Neither the public nor law enforcement should expect trafficked persons to come forward immediately, to trust them, or to be willing to speak out against their traffickers until they and their families are safe. Trafficked persons have been intimidated, both psychologically and physically, into submission. They suffer harms similar to the violence suffered by victims of torture.⁵ The obstacles faced by trafficked persons, however, are different in some ways from those faced by torture victims seeking asylum. Trafficked persons do not understand their rights, and are typically not prepared to remain in the country of destination. They are also disoriented and often unable to understand that what happened to them is a crime. Thus, people who seek to assist trafficked persons or to recover information about the traffickers must be extremely sensitive to the psychological, cultural, and, in cases involving women, gender aspects of the victimization in order to prevent revictimization.

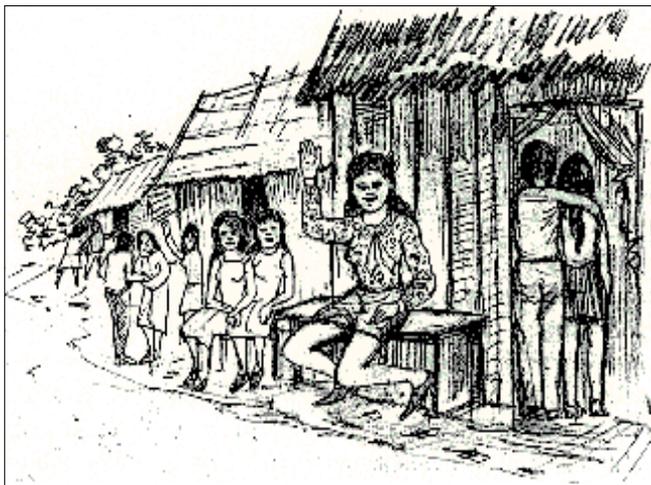


In India, a girl is comforted by another, in a hostel for the children of commercial sex workers, where she lives in the city of Calcutta.

The general public, especially health care workers, religious institutions, and community organizations, can assist in locating and assisting victims of trafficking simply by being aware and knowing which questions to ask. For example, individuals can be alert for signs of abuse and forced labor conditions when they visit the homes or businesses of persons using unskilled or low-skilled immigrant labor. Unfortunately, it is necessary to use caution in contacting law enforcement because, in many countries, corruption plays a central role in the ability of traffickers to operate. Consequently, reporting cases to the authorities in many countries should only be done after discussions with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are knowledgeable on the trafficking situation in the country.

Public officials play an especially important role in detecting trafficking because their work often takes them to potential sites of trafficking or places them in direct contact with potential or actual trafficked persons. For example:

- ◆ Consular employees who authorize fiancée and domestic worker visas could provide information to the women about their rights in the country of destination and provide them with names of NGOs to contact for assistance. They could also scrutinize the domestic worker contracts for signs of trafficking, such as egregious violations of domestic labor laws. Employers using such contracts often are traffickers.



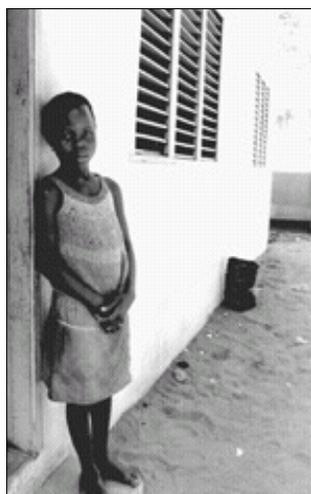
country pose a serious threat to their safety. Domestic legislation, then, must cure this serious failure by the international community to affirm that migrant victims of trafficking are entitled to basic human rights protections.

The new U.S. trafficking law — the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000 — is a positive step in the right direction.⁴ It offers substantial protections for trafficked persons. It

- ◆ Immigration officials at the point of entry and inside the country should be trained to ask questions of potential victims of trafficking in a safe and confidential environment. Before questioning potential victims, they should physically separate them from their traveling companions who may, in fact, be traffickers. Without this step there is little possibility of obtaining the truth. Immigration officials should be provided with appropriate questions to ask if any suspicion is raised or if false documents are discovered. Traffickers often force trafficked persons to travel on false documents. At the point of entry, a victim may still not be aware that she or he is holding false documents or being trafficked. A list of supportive NGOs in the country should also be provided to potential victims. Officials working in the field should not assume that all sweatshop workers are simply unfortunate, exploited, undocumented workers who need to be deported. They should ask questions capable of eliciting responses that distinguish between sweatshops and forced labor.



Mola and Yoka, Victims of atrocities committed in the Belgian Congo circa 1905 © Anti-Slavery.



Child domestic worker, Benin © ESAM.

- ◆ Housing inspectors, agricultural inspectors, labor inspectors, emergency medical teams, health workers, and others can maintain a high level of awareness when they encounter immigrants who are working or living in extreme conditions or suffering from very serious untreated medical conditions. They can report the situation to the authorities for investigation.

- ◆ Police, investigators, and prosecutors handling smuggling, labor abuse, and sexual abuse cases involving immigrants could consider the possibility that trafficking might be involved and include the appropriate questions in their investigations.

Governments should form interagency working groups to ensure that all relevant actors work together to combat trafficking. The working group, as well as the individual departments, should form partnerships with, and provide financial support to, local anti-trafficking and other community NGOs. Neither the government nor the NGOs alone can stop trafficking, but together they have the power to significantly reduce the ability of traffickers to operate as freely as they do today, to empower potential victims so as to prevent trafficking, and to adopt rights-based laws, policies, and practices that enable governments to prosecute and punish, and trafficked persons to recover with dignity and respect in a safe environment.***

From: *Global Issues*, August 2001, *Electronic journal Arresting Transnational Crime*. <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0801/ijge/gi05.htm>

¹ *Council of Europe Report on Domestic Slavery, submitted to Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men by Rapporteur, John Connor (Doc. 9102, 17 May 2001). Available at: <http://stars.coe.fr/doc/doc01/EDOC9102.htm>*

² *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,*

especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000). www.odccp.org/crime_cicp_convention.html#final (The Organized Crime Convention and the list of signatory countries is also found on this site.) The crucially important Interpretative Notes (Travaux Préparatoires) (A/55/383/Add.1 Addendum) to the protocol are at: www.odccp.org/crime_cicp_convention_documents.html. See particularly the explanation of the definition of trafficking.

³ *The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was also adopted.*

⁴ *U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act. 18 USC sec. 1590: "Whoever knowingly recruits, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, any person for labor or services in violation of this chapter" (involuntary servitude, slavery, forced labor) shall be fined or imprisoned for up to 20 years or for life if kidnapping, aggravated sexual abuse, attempt to kill is involved. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/queryz?c106:H.R.3244.ENR>:*

⁵ *Okawa has summarized some of the similarities of torture and trafficking on their victims in Impact of Trafficking Offenses on the Individual: post-traumatic stress disorder, severe depression, overwhelming shame, devastated sense of self, dissociation, loss of sense of safety, chronic fear, anxiety and phobias, and difficulty talking about rape. She points out that trafficked persons are subjected to many types of torture (physical, social, psychological, and sexual) and deprivation (hygiene, nutritional, health, sleep, and sensory. Judy Okawa, Ph.D., Program for Survivors of Torture and Severe Trauma, Center for Multicultural Human Services, Jan. 2001 (conference materials).*

Lastly, cooperation among all levels and branches of government is essential.

CHILD TRAFFICKING IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: AN OVERVIEW

By Dr. Rima Salah

UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa

Paper Presented at the First Pan African Conference on Human Trafficking Organized by The Women Trafficking and Child Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), at the International Conference Centre, Abuja on February 19th -23rd, 2001

Introduction

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today at this First Pan African Regional Conference on Human Trafficking aimed at evolving an African Regional Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons. Permit me to begin by commending the efforts of WOTCLEF in convening this landmark meeting and for bringing together an impressive array of regional leaders, thinkers and decision makers to focus on this very important topic. It is an important step towards elevating consciousness among governments and mobilizing for action in Africa. I salute the personal advocacy of her Excellency, Mrs. Titi Atiku Abubakar, wife of the Vice President of Federal Republic of Nigeria for her commitment, dedication and willingness to use her position to champion the cause of the thousands of unfortunate victims whose lives are tragically scarred or destroyed by the cruelty and inhumanity of those who profit by selling people.

For some years now, trafficking in persons has been an issue of concern to the international community. Child trafficking, in particular, is recognised as a serious human rights issue requiring immediate national, regional and global collaboration and action. But the challenge - as we will see - is complex and, to be effective, actions will need to be supported by

in-depth research to create better understanding of the factors that drive this practice.

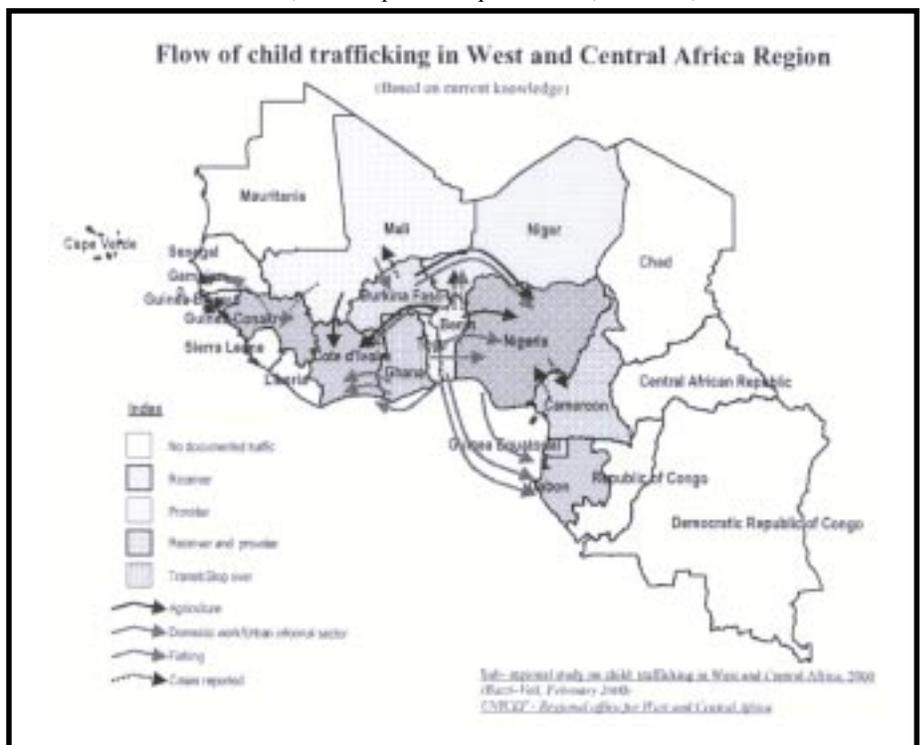
In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly defined child trafficking as the:

"illicit and clandestine movement of persons across national and international borders, largely from developing countries and some countries in transition with the end goal of forcing women, girls and children into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations for the profit of recruiters, traffickers, crime syndicates, as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as forced domestic labour".

However, in recent years, it has been the efforts of international, development

and civil society organisations that have focused attention on this modern form of slavery - where children are bought and sold within and across national borders by organised networks.

Trafficking of children for economic purposes is closely and inextricably linked to some of the worst forms of child labour. In the underworld of human trade, children are exchanged for prostitution, for begging and soliciting, and for work on construction sites, in small shops, in factories and in domestic service. Hidden from sight and beyond the reach of the law, these children are abused, exposed to hazardous working conditions, confined in the workplace, denied education, denied basic healthcare, denied adequate nutrition, leisure time and the safety and security of their families. Treated like slaves these children often end up working as domestic servants and labourers on plantations, in mines, in the urban informal



sector and increasingly in the market of prostitution and pornography where countless numbers lose their innocence and are exposed to HIV and other health risks. Many pay the ultimate price and lose their lives. All lose their basic human rights.

Current Patterns of Child Trafficking in West and Central Africa

Although child trafficking is a global problem, the practice is particularly widespread in some regions. Africa and South Asia (especially the Mekong Area) are among the worst. Here in West Africa, millions of youth are affected by this brutal, entrenched trade. Child trafficking is a complex reality and trafficking networks are often informal and secretive in nature. This makes the identification of networks and traffickers extremely difficult. Indeed, in Africa, it is a major challenge just to gather and interpret data on the victims, the children being traded. Added to this complexity is the fact that in some regions, like ECOWAS, where open borders promote free trade, even when cross-border movement of children is obvious, it is sometimes very difficult to distinguish between illegal and criminal activities and legitimate family, cross-border migration.

What we do know is that the scale of the problem is enormous. Studies have revealed clearly established trafficking routes involving Benin, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Niger. While some of these countries are suppliers of trafficked children, others are receivers, and others are transit countries. Some countries are both suppliers and receivers. We are still at the very early stages of defining the issues and generating the data that will help us to better understand these movement patterns. We will need to do much more to understand fully the mechanisms of cross-border trafficking and clearly more research is necessary. But, we will also need to expand our conceptual framework to look beyond cross-boarder trafficking to other areas

including internal child trafficking, where our knowledge is even more limited. Almost nothing is known about internal trafficking of children except that it is a substantial problem, largely unexplored, but one that places the child at the same risk as those being traded across borders.

Factors Influencing Child Trafficking

Two sub-regional studies undertaken by UNICEF in 1998 and 2000, have given us some insight into the factors that contribute to and drive the practice of child trafficking in the region. Analyses in both studies showed that poverty, cultural values and traditional belief systems all work to weaken the protection of child rights and push children towards traffickers.

I must say that children and women trafficking in Africa is very complex. This reality goes beyond the abuse of traditional deployments or migration for labour. It represents a major paradox of our time especially for children;

- ◆ where our society agrees that children are the most valuable natural resource, yet they are being plundered through exploitative labour and trafficking;
- ◆ where adults agree that children should be given first priority but most economic and political decisions are made without childhood in mind; and
- ◆ Where most families believe those children must be given the best start in life, but children are at a greater risk for poverty than any other societal group.

In this region, West and Central Africa, poverty emerges as a major and ubiquitous causal factor. Indeed, all of our countries are experiencing relatively high level of poverty and large proportions of the population live below the poverty line -the average being 40%, but rising to extremely high levels of 72% in a few countries. Thus, in the context of extreme poverty, the motive for the transfer of children is often economic.

But poverty alone does not explain the prevalence of child trafficking in all countries.

Indeed, some of those most heavily involved in child trafficking do not necessarily have the worst social indicators, nor possess the worst cases of poverty. So, we need to come to grips with the fact that there are other factors - indeed a very diverse and complex list of factors - that contribute to and fuel the business of child trafficking. Let me briefly discuss just a few.

1. Lack of vocational and economic opportunities for the youth in the rural areas. Families seeing no economic opportunities at home will often place children with families or friends in areas where they believe the prospects for gainful employment may be greater. Children in these communities become easy prey for traffickers who promise trade and work opportunities.
2. Insufficient and/or inaccessible educational opportunities. The motive for moving children from the protective envelope of the family is often the search for education rather than the search for work. Traditional practices of placement and child movement within the extended family circle for educational purposes contribute to this factor.
3. Ignorance on the part of families and children of the risks involved in trafficking, such as risks of serious maltreatment, rape, torture, exposure to HIV/AIDS and even to psychological risks linked with separation, and emotional isolation. Sadly, our world in the 21st century is far less friendly and hospitable than we would like. It is increasingly dangerous and threatening place for children. But for many parents - especially those from culturally insulated families and traditional communities, the idea of harming a child is alien to their reality and frame of reference.

4. Traditional migration of adults within the framework of economic activities. Here the problem is rooted in the movement of families, nomadic peoples, and those who leave the protective and insular environment of the village - where everyone keeps the children - to the far less friendly and supportive realm of the urban/peri-urban slum.
5. High demand for cheap and submissive child labour in the informal economic sector. Children provide cheap labour and submit to abusive situations. They are often unaware of their rights or are powerless to seek assistance. Their vulnerability and eagerness to please make them attractive targets for the ruthless and greed driven predators in today's world.
6. Opportunities to travel provided through easy means of communication and transport, experience shows that border areas, or areas situated along major routes, are particularly vulnerable to trafficking.
7. The desire of the youth for emancipation through migration. Studies have shown that children see in migration, not only the perception of becoming a better person, but also, the adventure of personal travel.
8. Institutional lapses such as inadequate political commitment, non-existent national legislation against child trafficking, and absence of a judicial framework allowing for the perpetrators and accomplices of trafficking to be held responsible and punished for their acts.

we are to make inroads in combating the multi-dimensional causes of child trafficking. These strategies should include:

1. Raising public awareness
2. Promotion of education as a preventive strategy,
3. Strengthening partnerships and cooperation, and
4. Establishing a legal and penal support system



Educational poster in Tanzania against overworking of children.

Raising Public Awareness

Raising public awareness requires all hands to be on deck. Relevant government Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations, religious leaders, community leaders, regional and international organisations all need to be involved and encouraged to carry out public awareness activities in urban and rural areas, in market places, in schools, in churches and mosques and particularly in border towns and villages. WOTCLEF is today setting an excellent example by bringing national and regional focus to this issues. The media, particularly the electronic media, has a key role to play in the sensitization of public opinion.

Media coverage on the rights of the child, on child labour and trafficking and on cases of serious maltreatment of trafficked children has been shown to have a great impact.

UNICEF, in collaboration with key partners such as the International Labour Organization has embarked on activities to create public awareness and raise the consciousness of governments. Some of these activities include:

- ◆ Mounting vigorous advocacy campaigns along high-level decision makers and support for studies to strengthen knowledge on the situation of child trafficking.
- ◆ With the International Labour Organization (ILO), the organisation of a regional consultation in Libreville, Gabon. This meeting improved knowledge of the worst forms of child labour and trafficking for exploitative labour purposes. Twenty one countries participated and adopted a common platform for action.
- ◆ As a follow-up to the Libreville meeting, several countries (including Togo, Benin, Mali, Gabon and Nigeria) established inter-ministerial committees to find solutions.
- ◆ A transit centre has been established in Sikasso, Mali to receive repatriated children and to give them appropriate services and specific psychological care before their reunification with their families.
- ◆ Gabon established a National Commission to combat trafficking in children under the leadership of the Vice-President. And Mali, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Togo, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Guinea are planning conferences to reconfirm the outcome of the Libreville consultation and to adopt national plans of action.
- ◆ The Governments of Ivory Coast and Mali signed a Memorandum of Understanding in September to foster cross-border cooperation in combating child trafficking, repatriation of trafficked children, detection and tracking of networks for trafficking in children.

Combating Child Trafficking

From a regional perspective it seems clear that a multi-faceted strategy approach will be necessary if

- ◆ The OAU Commission on Labour and Social Affairs meeting held in Algeria recommended placing the trafficking in children on the agenda in future OAU (Organization of African Unity) Council of Ministers meetings.

Promotion of Education as a Preventive Strategy

Education constitutes an effective long-term linchpin strategy to combat child trafficking and women exploitation. Educating and keeping children at school reduce their risk of getting involved in trafficking rings. Similarly, the school could serve as a safeguard for the children continuing their education. However, for education programmes to serve as effective preventive measure for a significant proportion of potential victims of both sexes, emphasis should be placed not only on female literacy but also on vocational training for both girls and boys.

UNICEF has committed itself to promote basic education as a preventive and protective strategy, as well as deploying its communication capacity to advocate the rights of all children. Currently 34 countries, in all regions, are experimenting in tackling child labour through education. Approaches encompass school readiness activities focused on the early years, attempts to reduce school dropout rates through quality improvements, selective economic incentives, and the development of second chance opportunities for working children who have missed out an education.

Strengthening Partnerships and Cooperation

One of the most important ways to accelerate the fight against child trafficking, is the forging of strong partnerships and collaboration among the key players (such as NGOs, governments, regional and international organisation etc) at the local and international level. The role of partnerships and cooperation can not be over-emphasized. As in other parts of the world affected by the phenomenon of child trafficking, the NGOs in West and Central Africa were the first to call the attention of the population and development partners

to the existence of internal and cross border child trafficking. NGOs also play key roles in the care of victims of child trafficking such as the operation of transit camps, family tracing and re-unification of children with their families, management of drop-in centres, and rehabilitation and counselling of victims of trafficking.

However, NGOs often operate under some constraints which limit their effectiveness and these include: inadequate institutional capacities, limited technical competence, restricted coverage and isolated actions and weak co-ordination. To overcome these constraints NGOs working in the area of protecting the rights of children need to build their capacity for effective institutional and programme management. They also need to collaborate and network to exchange information and experiences and for mutual support. Highly visible meetings, such as the one convened today by WOTCLEF, help in forging consensus and enhanced capacity, commitment and capability in the NGO community.

Because of the criminal and cross-border ramifications of child trafficking, the state must necessarily play leadership role. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the state to define the strategies and measures, and to ensure the implementation and co-ordination of activities with the other partners. Also because child trafficking in its cross-border patterns calls for the responsibility of respectful governments of supplier and receiver countries, there is need for inter-governmental cooperation. Such cooperation between countries, which is usually diplomatic and police-related, usually focuses on the problem of repatriation of victims of cross-border trafficking.

Key partners in the International Community such as ILO and UNDCP have in recent years, been lending support to the effort to combat child trafficking in the region and working closely with several international NGOs.

Establishment of Relevant Legislation or Penal Sanctions

Our discussion of the role of partners would not be complete if we neglect the area where there is no substitute for effective national leadership -and that is in the establishment of a legal framework to protect children from the risk of child

trafficking. Beyond creating awareness of the problem, national authorities must see the urgency of establishing legal provision to deter traffickers and serve as a basis for instituting legal proceedings against traffickers and their accomplices. Your Excellency, let me congratulate you and WOTCLEF on the work you have done to move forward in Nigeria on the development of relevant legislation. Your presentation of an “ Anti-human Trafficking Bill” to the National Legislature is commendable. It is an example of leadership that we hope others in the region will emulate. Your bill is a call for progressive legislative action to protect the rights of Nigerian citizens that we hope will receive speedy consideration by Nigeria’s elected officials.

For human trafficking to be controlled, it is essential to have a legal framework which accomplishes two things: 1) regulation of the movement of minors, and 2) establishment of penalties for acts that constitute trafficking. Unfortunately, in most countries of the sub- region, there is no legal disposition qualifying trafficking as a punishable offence, defining its constitutive elements and the acts associated with it. We believe that if child and women traffickers are to be prevented from taking advantage of the present legal vacuum to perpetrate their trade with impunity, all countries in the region must put in place sound legislation with appropriate sanctions to serve as deterrents to traffickers and their collaborators.

Key partners in this effort to achieve harmonisation of legal provisions could be the Economic Community of West African States (ECOW AS), the Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). It has already been suggested that a goal of this collaboration might be the elaboration of an international legal instrument on child trafficking taking into consideration existing relevant conventions and charters, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the ILO Convention No.182 and the Recommendation No.190 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, and the Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children as well the Convention against Transnational organised crime.***

BE SMART, BE SAFE...

Don't become a victim of the trade in people.

A Brochure by the U.S. Department of State Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, January 2001

What is trafficking?

Trafficking is when someone moves you from one place to another with the promise of giving you a job or offering you marriage by using coercion, fraud, deception and force. It is modern-day slavery and traffickers will not hesitate to harm you and your family.

Who are the victims of trafficking?

Trafficking is a worldwide problem. You may think “**This cannot happen to me...**” but it happens to people just like you all over the world every day. We do not want to scare you, but we want you to be safe.

Young women and children may be trafficked worldwide, into neighboring countries, or within their home countries. Have you had an interesting offer to work abroad?

Every situation is different. You may or may not know that you are being trafficked and what you will be doing once you reach your destination.

“The woman suggested that she could help me to get work somewhere abroad. She told me she had an acquaintance in Germany, a woman who could connect me with a family for whom I could be a housemaid.” Upon arrival... “She said I owed her 2,000 German marks and said that I would earn that money by providing sexual services to men. I was shocked!”

– *Marsha, a trafficking survivor*

Often women will answer newspaper advertisements for jobs without knowing that criminals are posing as legitimate businesses such as:

- Model agencies
- Travel agencies
- Employment companies
- “Au Pair” babysitting services
- International matchmaking services (mail order bride services)

These are only a few examples of the types of false businesses used by criminals.

“He told me then that I had been sold to him for \$10,000, and that I would have to pay him back. He told me I would have to prostitute myself.”

– *Olga, a trafficking survivor*

However, traffickers are not always strangers, oftentimes women and children are “trafficked” by someone they know:

- A relative
- A neighbor
- An acquaintance/friend

Traffickers, who may be either criminal groups or individuals, will promise employment or marriage and will offer to handle and pay for the costs of a passport, work permit, and transportation for these women and children.

What happens next?

Victims of trafficking are often placed in unsafe or illegal living or working conditions. Far from home, traffickers or employers force women and children into prostitution, sweatshop labor or other illegal activities by:

- **taking away documents:** passports, birth certificates, identification cards, address books.
- **debt bondage:** once a person has signed a contract and reached their destination, the employer or individual will keep the person’s salary to pay for the costs of travel, such as transportation, and passport and visa fees.
- **physical abuse:** punching, slapping, choking, pulling hair, kicking, forcing sex, and using a dangerous weapon such as a gun or knife.

“”They beat me, but only across the back near the kidneys, so it would not hurt my appearance.”

– *Olga*

- **emotional and psychological abuse:** threatening to hurt the family or take children away, threatening to turn the person over to police or immigration officers, destroying the person’s property, humiliating and demeaning the person,

forcing the person to commit illegal acts.

- **isolation:** being kept in a room or house with no contact with friends or social or religious groups.

While some women know before they go that they will be exotic dancers, domestic workers, farm workers or prostitutes, they may find when they arrive they will also suffer isolation and abuse, and be forced to hand over most, if not all, of their earnings to their employers or sponsors.

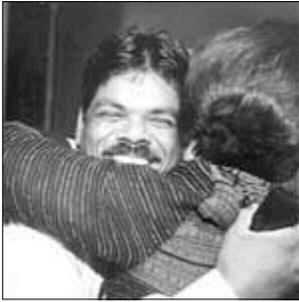
How can I protect myself?

If an individual or company is making plans for you to travel and work away from home:

- **Know the address** and telephone number of your country’s embassy or consulate closest to where you will be staying.
- **Learn the name,** address and telephone number of where you are going. If possible, call or write to that employer to verify that you will be working there, and ask about your work, pay and living conditions.
- **Check with a non-governmental organization** (especially those who specialize in women’s issues) in your country to help you determine if the person or company is legitimate or trustworthy; or, if you are traveling to the USA, contact the consular office at the United States Embassy.

Most legitimate employers will provide a contract. Do not sign any contracts right away. Read through the document. If there is something you do not understand, take the contract to an attorney, non-governmental organization, or someone you trust. **Watch out** for language that says the employer will:

- “**hold all money in trust until your contract is completed;**”
- “**subtract your cash allowance from the sum held in trust;**” or
- “**retain a percentage of your money.**”



Be suspicious if your prospective employer obtains a tourist visa for you to work in the U.S. (see U.S. laws below).

Tell your family and friends when you are leaving and give them the address where you will be staying.

When you arrive at your destination:

Do not give your passport to anyone to keep for you! Regardless of your legal status, your employer does not need your passport and has no right to hold it.

Keep a copy of your passport information in a safe place where only you can find it.

Learn basic survival phrases in the local language.

If you are in a foreign country, register with the embassy or consulate of your home country.

Contact a family member or friend at home once you have reached your destination. Keep in contact with that person!

What Should I Know About the United States of America (U.S.A.)?

If I need help?

No one can force you to work in the United States!

Persons in the U.S. are protected by and subject to U.S. laws. Call the police if you are in danger or are being hurt. You have the right to be protected.

You have the right to a lawyer if you are arrested. If you do not have enough money for a lawyer, contact the local legal aid agency. **You also have the right to speak to your embassy or consulate.** If you are a victim of domestic violence, you can also get a protection order from the U.S. court that prohibits the abuser from attacking you or contacting you and your family.

A victim of crime in the U.S. has rights! Victim assistance programs provide many services such as counseling, emergency

shelter, legal aid and emergency transportation.

• **Call the Worker Exploitation Complaint Line: 1-888-428-7581.** Translation is available for most non-English speakers.

• The complaint line receives calls about foreign workers who have been recruited or smuggled into the U.S. and are then forced to work under terrible conditions.

• The complaint line provides a referral service for exploited workers or victims of trafficking in need of medical and other basic services.

• This complaint line assists the U.S. government to prevent, investigate, and prosecute traffickers and persons who abuse workers in the United States.

• **If you are in danger, dial 911,** an emergency number that will get immediate help for you everywhere in the U.S.

• If you are afraid to go to the police, there are other places where you can get help:

- Hospitals
- Fire departments
- Religious places
- Shelters for women and children
- Legal aid agencies
- Immigrant services groups.
- **Call your country's embassy or consulate in Washington, D.C. or a major U.S. city.**

What are the U.S. laws?

Traffickers face up to 20 years or, under certain circumstances up to life in prison for each act of trafficking. Traffickers will also be forced to repay what they stole from the victim.

For traffickers: It is a crime to bring, or attempt to bring, someone into the U.S. at a place other than the port of entry, and to encourage or in-

duce someone to come to, enter, or remain in the U.S. in violation of the law. It is a crime to harbor, conceal, or shield illegal foreigners from detection. Involuntary servitude and slavery are extremely serious crimes under U.S. law.

For illegal entry: It is a crime to enter the U.S. without being inspected by a U.S. immigration officer. The penalty is up to two years in prison and deportation. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) can deport any person if they are in the U.S. illegally or are involved in illegal activities and deny them re-entry into the U.S.

For illegal work: It is illegal to work in the U.S. unless you have a visa which allows you to work, or the INS has formally authorized the work. To get work visas, you are required to appear personally for an interview before a U.S. Consular Officer (or an INS official if you are visiting the U.S. but want to work). Employment visas are reserved mostly for skilled laborers rather than jobs for waitressing and child care, or dancing in nightclubs. If you have questions about the requirements for a work visa, contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

For prostitution: Prostitution is illegal in nearly all cities and towns in the U.S. In addition, it is a crime to transport a person or promote his or her use as a prostitute. Transporting a person into the U.S., or across state borders within the U.S., with the purpose of having that person perform as a prostitute or for other illegal purposes is also a crime.

• Survivor stories courtesy of Protection Project, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.***

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Fact Sheet:

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INITIATIVES

The Department of State funds anti-trafficking programs in the areas of trafficking prevention, protection and assistance for victims, and prosecution of traffickers.

The U.S. Agency for International Development also funds programs designed to help disseminate information on the dangers of trafficking to vulnerable groups, strengthen the capacity of women's and anti-trafficking organizations to protect those groups from abuse and violence, and engage in public education, outreach, and economic opportunity programs for those most at risk of being trafficked.

In addition, the Department of Labor provides funding for anti-trafficking programs in the areas of protection and provision of services to victims, prevention, and governmental and non-governmental organization (NGO) capacity building and coordination against trafficking.

Below are examples of programs planned or being implemented in Africa during fiscal year 2000 and 2001 by the Departments of State and Labor, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

GLOBAL:

U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

The International Visitors Program brought 240 representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media to the United States in 2000 to examine the trafficking-in-persons situation and meet with U.S. experts. In 2001, 264 International Visitors were programmed in these general themes: trafficking in persons; protecting human rights; women's and gender issues; international crime issues; law enforcement; women's legal issues; and border control issues.

Some of these projects focus on trafficking for the entire three weeks of the program, but, more commonly, trafficking is a major component of a broader project. International Visitors come from virtually all parts of the world, but are primarily from Africa, the New Independent States, South Asia, and Central Europe including the Balkan region. Some travel as individuals with an interpreter; and others as part of a group of various sizes. In 2002, a member of the Ghana Immigration Services and a member of the Women Juvenile Unit of the Ghana Police Service will participate in an international visitor program on human trafficking.

Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

The UN Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In December 2000 over 120 nations gathered in Palermo, Italy to sign the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its two supplementary protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. Eighty-one countries signed the Trafficking Protocol. This Protocol provides a framework for countries to: criminalize trafficking; provide victim protection and assistance in appropriate cases; provide victim rehabilitation; address the status of the victim in the receiving state; return trafficking victims; implement law enforcement measures against the traffickers; strengthen border controls; provide security of travel documents; verify validity of documents; and prevent trafficking through public information campaigns. The next step for the signatory countries is to ratify and implement these instruments.

"Be Smart, Be Safe" Brochure. INL produced and published this brochure that is targeted to potential victims. It describes the tactics criminal groups use to coerce and traffic women, the risks of trafficking, what women can do to protect themselves against illegitimate groups, what are victims' rights in the United States, and how women can get help while in the United States. The brochure is currently available at 27 U.S. embassies in 24 different languages. Plans

are underway to disseminate the brochure to more U.S. embassies. "Be Smart, Be Safe" is also available on the Internet.

The Protection Project. INL has funded Johns Hopkins University to develop an interactive database on U.S. and international legislation protecting women and children from commercial sexual exploitation. The database includes a comparative analysis of laws and penalties, country-specific situation reports, maps, case studies and victim testimonials. This database is available on web at www.protectionproject.org.

Development of Law Enforcement Anti-Trafficking Curriculum. INL funds are supporting the development of an anti-trafficking in persons training curriculum for use by U.S. government trainers overseas by American University. This curriculum covers several aspects of human trafficking which includes: strategies for prevention; methods of enforcement and prosecution; and methods of sensitizing law enforcement officials to the physical and psychological impact of such crimes on victims. The curriculum focuses on interagency and international cooperation as well as strategies for overcoming bureaucratic and communication obstacles that stand in the way of investigating and prosecuting human trafficking crimes. Last February, American University staff tested the curriculum in a pilot training program involving Russian, Moldovan, and Georgian prosecutors and law enforcement

officials at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest, Hungary.

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

PRM contributions for anti-trafficking activities listed below under each region were made to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with one additional grant to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). These anti-trafficking activities include some or all of the following elements: prevention, assistance, protection, and reintegration of trafficked women and children. In some cases, IOM works with the host country to improve legislation to provide protection to victims of trafficking and prosecution of traffickers. Additionally, IOM projects include capacity-building components to prepare countries for the inclusion of programs within their country plans.

Global Return Program Fund. PRM supports an IOM emergency global return program to assist indigent trafficked women and children on an individual basis in certain developing countries who wish to return to their home.

AFRICA

**U.S. Department Of State
Bureau for International Narcotics and
Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)**

Ethiopia - Creation of a Rape Crisis Intervention Center. The Ethiopian NGO Good Samaritan Association, with INL funding, created a rape crisis intervention center in Addis Ababa that also assists victims of trafficking. In addition to providing rape kits and medical assistance to victims, the center works to increase prosecution of offenders by providing legal counseling to victims and a hotline.

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

Mali/Cote d'Ivoire - Assistance for Child Victims of Trafficking. This project of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will provide assistance over a period of two years to some 2,000 Malian children who have been trafficked for labor to Cote d'Ivoire, and support the Malian Government's Plan of Action to combat cross-border child trafficking. In cooperation with both Governments involved, UNICEF, and nongovernmental organizations, IOM proposes to identify trafficked children, transport them to safe shelters in Mali,

contact their families, and provide reintegration assistance

Nigeria - Assistance for Trafficked Women and Children. In cooperation with several UN agencies, this project focuses on returning Nigerian women and minors trafficked to Europe for purposes of prostitution. Studies of returning victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation have reported elevated infection rates for sexually transmitted disease (STDs). This IOM project proposes to assist the Nigerian Federal Government, and the Edo and Lagos States, acquire the capacity to combat trafficking in women and minors, prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STDs in trafficking-affected areas, assist persons in returning to their communities, and help persons living with those infections.

**U.S. Agency For International
Development (USAID)**

Regional - Child Trafficking and Indentured Labor in the Cocoa Industry. USAID partners with government, industry, and trade organizations in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Guinea, to mobilize popular support for anti-child trafficking issues.

USAID/Angola - Education for Democracy and Development Initiative. This project works to strengthen the capacity of The Street Girls' Center, an Angolan NGO, in Luanda, Angola, to provide vocational training to girls both to steer them away from the sex trade and

provide them with competitive job skills for the employment market.

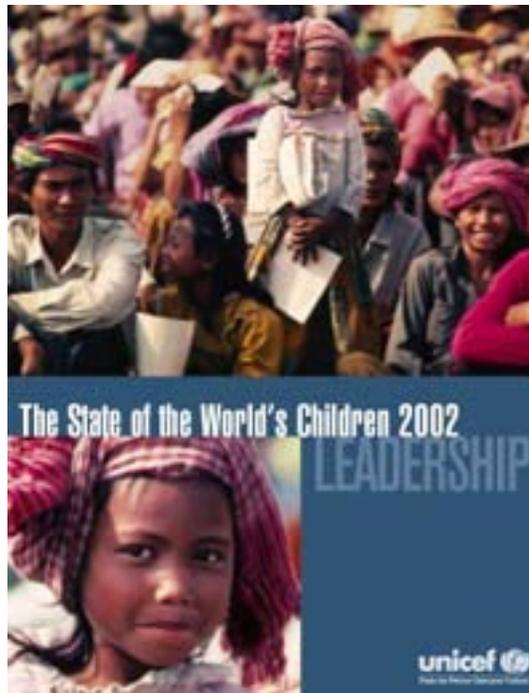
USAID/Nigeria – Promoting Anti-Trafficking Legislation within State Governments. USAID supports the efforts of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, a local NGO, to place anti-trafficking on the legislative agenda of Edo State, where trafficking is particularly acute.

USAID/Uganda – Reintegration of War-Affected Children in Northern Districts. A new project to be launched this year will re-integrate girls and boys abducted into recent conflicts back into the Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. Vocational training, reproductive health, basic literacy, HIV awareness, and skills development will be particularly focused on child mothers, displaced children, and local community leaders.

**U.S. Department Of Labor
Bureau for International Labor Affairs**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, & Togo - Combating Trafficking in Children for Labor Exploitation in West and Central Africa. The International Labor Organization's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (ILO-IPEC) initiated a project to rescue approximately 9,000 children trafficked for the purpose of labor exploitation and prevent the trafficking of 18,000 additional children. The first phase of this project produced a sub-regional report synthesizing studies on the nature and scope of child trafficking in the participating nations and

developed strategies for national and concerted regional actions to address the problem. During this phase, efforts were made to channel identified children to NGO's already providing social protection and support services for victims of trafficking. The second phase of this project, which began in July 2001, will address the problem of trafficking on both national and regional levels through awareness-raising campaigns; mobilization/capacity building/coordination of social partners and key actors; provision of multi-disciplinary preventive/rehabilitative programs for child victims, children at risk and their parents; development of multilateral/bilateral agreements to prevent trafficking; and through the organization of sub-regional meetings to review regulations/enforcement practice against trafficking in children.***



FACT SHEET: U.S. ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

- January 31, 2002 - The Department of Justice issued the T visa regulation, outlining the elements necessary for a human trafficking victim to be eligible for classification as a T nonimmigrant alien. The T visa will enable certain trafficking victims to live and work legally in the United States for three years while their cases are investigated and prosecuted. There will be 5,000 T visas available annually.

- October 2001 - The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons was established to support the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, as authorized by Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

- July 24, 2001 - The Departments of Justice and State issued a regulation implementing § 107(c) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This regulation sets forth the procedures and assigns responsibilities for Justice and State Department officials to carry out requirements related to the identification and protection of victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.

- July 2001 - The Department of State issued the first annual Trafficking in Persons report, which presented information gathered from 186 embassies and consulates as well as non-governmental and press reports. The report assessed the counter-trafficking efforts of 82 countries that were determined to have a significant number of trafficked victims and became a primary tool for engaging countries on the issue and identifying areas for improvement.

- March 2001 - The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiated a certification process to assist trafficking in persons victims. To date, HHS had issued 209 certification letters to adults, and nine eligibility letters to minors under the age of 18. These letters enabled a total of 218 trafficking victims to become eligible

to apply for federal and certain state benefits to the same extent as refugees.

- December 2000 - The Department of State took the lead in negotiating the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, to which approximately 100 countries have become signatories to date. This international document provides a framework for action for countries throughout the world to combat trafficking.

- The Department of Justice currently has 91 trafficking investigations pending, which represents nearly a 20% increase over the number of investigations from a year earlier and a three-fold increase since establishing its Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force toll-free complaint line in February 2000.

- In its fiscal year 2002 budget, the Justice Department received \$10 million to award grants to fund domestic trafficking victim service programs established by state and local governments as well as non-governmental organizations. The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division received an increase of \$770,000 to hire seven additional prosecutors and five support staff who will work on human trafficking cases. The Division has created the positions of Special Litigation Counsel for Involuntary Servitude and Special Counsel for Trafficking in Persons, the latter of which is dedicated to outreach.

- HHS awarded over \$1.25 million in discretionary grants during fiscal year 2001 for victims of trafficking to eight organizations throughout the United States. Grant funds may be used for a wide range of services to certified (adult) and eligible (minor) victims of trafficking, including case management, temporary housing, special mental health needs, legal assistance referrals, and cultural orientation. In addition, trafficking grant

funds may be used to fund other services needed to bridge the gap between the date of HHS certification/eligibility letters and the receipt of public benefits and support services.

- The State Department has supported approximately 100 global anti-trafficking programs or initiatives in over 40 countries, and works closely with both the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department of Labor to coordinate these programs. The estimated value of these programs is \$11.5 million.

- USAID supported anti-trafficking activities in around 25 countries with more than \$6 million in FY 2001 funds. USAID/Ukraine's Trafficking Prevention Program is one example of many such anti-trafficking initiatives. Seven regional centers throughout Ukraine now offer job skills training, hot lines, crisis prevention, and referral services to vulnerable women. More than 30,000 women have used the services provided by these centers. USAID also funded a three-part docudrama, *If I Don't Return*, exposing the dangers of trafficking, and over 1000 copies will be distributed to organizations throughout the country to help advance their own anti-trafficking awareness programs.

- The Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs negotiated a \$1.4 million dollar cooperative agreement with the International Research and Exchange Board, a non-governmental organization, to conduct a two-year anti-trafficking project in Eastern Europe. This program's goal is to prevent trafficking of women by creating viable economic alternatives for at-risk women in seven major cities. Approximately 13,500 women will be trained annually.***

HIV/AIDS EDUCATION BIKE RIDE

By Praya Baruch

Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Coordinator

From January 7 to 13, Peace Corps held its Second Annual HIV/AIDS Education bike ride. Starting in Hohoe and ending in the Ho area of the Volta Region, 42 Peace Corps Volunteers, 6 international volunteers, and 15 Ghanaians gave talks in fourteen towns and villages. All together, the bike ride succeeded in directly reaching over 3,200 Ghanaians.

The Peace Corps volunteers stationed in each of the towns organized groups of adults, students, and church groups to come together and participate in the presentations. At each talk, a Ghanaian nurse or health-care worker opened the discussion with an introduction to AIDS and an overview of the disease. Peace Corps volunteers then addressed such issues as the difference between HIV and AIDS, having compassion for those who are infected with HIV, how easily an epidemic can spread, how to use male and female condom, and how to make life choices that will allow one to reach one's goals in good health. These issues were addressed through interactive activities that used several participants from the audience together with Peace Corps volunteers. All information was translated into the local language by the Ghanaian volunteers.



Several interesting points came up during the presentations. One of the Ghanaian interpreters pointed out the need to address the common practice of letting another woman besides the mother breastfeed a child while the mother is at the farm. In another talk, a man brought up the concern that some people are reluctant to get tested because they think that if they test positive, the doctor will hold them at the hospital and will not allow them to return to their towns.

Many positive things came out of these talks. By allocating generous time

for question and answer sessions, many myths and misconceptions were dispelled. Each audience member was encouraged to become AIDS educator and to help in the fight against ignorance of the disease and against the stigmatization of people infected with HIV. Estimating that each audience member talks to just two people about what they have learned about AIDS, the program will have reached almost 10,000 Ghanaians.

All of the Peace Corps volunteers said that the program was definitely worth the sweat, the tired muscles, the dust in their faces, and the occasional fall. They are all looking forward to getting on their bikes and doing it again!***



Above: Peace Corps Volunteers Linda Atwater, Erica Olsen, and Bonnie Kelly teaching the "Journey of Hope" to the younger group of participants in Taviefe, Volta Region.

Left: Peace Corps Volunteer Greg de la Fuente and Volunteer Selasie Klutse facilitating a Quiz competition after the talk in Ve-Koloenu, Volta Region.

Human Rights Initiatives

Center for Human Rights
United Nations Human Rights (OHCHR)
<http://www.unhcr.org/refugees.htm>

Trafficking in Women and Children
United Nations Development Programme for Women (UNIFEM), Bangkok
<http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/Gendiss/Gendiss2.htm>

Combating Trafficking in South-East Asia
International Organization on Migration (IOM)
February 2001
http://www.iom.int/PDF_Files/mrs/mrs002_2001.pdf

U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime
Texts, background and convention documents
December 12-15, 2000
<http://www.odccp.org/palermo/convmain.html>

New U.N. Treaty Targets International Crime
Article November 17, 2000
<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/traffic/00111701.htm>

UNGA Adopts Documents on Transnational Crime, Trafficking
Excerpts from proceedings
November 15, 2000
<http://www.usinfo.state.gov/topical/global/traffic/00111601.htm>

Proposed Action Plan 2000 for Activities to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) November 1999
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/docs/aptraffic.htm>

Trafficking In Human Beings: Implications For The OSCE
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
September 1999
http://www.osce.org/odihr/docs/i3_index.htm

Convention on Trafficking in Women and Children for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
http://www.osce.org/odihr/docs/i3_index.htm

World Commission on International Law for Women to Protect Women from Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Pornography
United Nations
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/wciw/>



Trafficking in Human Beings
International Conference on Migration, Culture and Crime, Australian Institute of Criminology, July 1999
<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/other/trafficking.html>

Trafficking in Women for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation
Swedish Foundation of Women's Forum, August 1998
<http://www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/papers/traffickingreport.html>

Nongovernmental Organizations

Anti-Slavery International
<http://www.antislavery.org/>

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
trafficked-women.org/

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/catw

Crossing Borders Against Trafficking in Women and Girls
<http://www.qweb.kvinnoforum.se/trafficking/>

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
<http://www.waawt.org/gaatw/index.html>

Global Survey of Human Trafficking
<http://www.ilo.org/letrade/>

Human Rights Campaign
the Trafficking Initiative
<http://www.hrcamp.org/projects/traffcamp/>
into.htm

International Human Rights Law Group Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons
<http://www.hrlawgroup.org/site/programs.htm>

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Migration Web
<http://www.iom.int/migrationweb/focusentry.htm>

Institute for Policy Studies Campaign for Migrant Domestic Worker Rights
<http://www.ips-dc.org/campaign/WhoWeAre.htm>

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Protection Project
<http://www.sais-jhu.edu/protectionproject/>

La Strada Ukraine
<http://www.brama.com/lastrada/about.html>

MiraMed Institute - Ending the Sexual Trafficking of Girls from Russia
<http://www.miramedinstitute.org/Trafficking.html>

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - Trafficking in Human Beings
http://www.osce.org/odihr/u_traff.htm

President's Interagency Council on Women, U.S. Department of State - Stop Trafficking
<http://secretary.state.gov/www/picw/home.html>

Traditional Values Coalition - Exploring International Sex Trafficking
<http://www.traditionalvalues.org/traffic.htm>

Women's Human Rights Resources - Slavery and Trafficking
<http://www.womenandhumanrights.org/lib.utoronto/diana/slavery/slavery.htm>

Pictures In Review

AMBASSADOR POWELL VISITS NORTHERN AND UPPER EAST REGIONS

Ambassador Powell visited several US funded projects in the Northern and Upper East Regions in early January. In Tamale, she commissioned the HIV/AIDS hospice at the Shekhinah Clinic founded by Dr. David Abdulai Fuseni. The US Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program contributed \$150,000 to fund the construction of the hospice and will also be providing medical equipment and furniture. Since 1998, the Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program has provided \$300,000 for projects in all ten regions of Ghana.

While in Tamale, Ambassador Powell also commissioned a workshop at the Super Shoe Factory that was funded by the Ambassador's Self-Help fund. Founded in 1964, the Self-Help fund provides grants to projects that promote increased community and individual access to education, health, vocational training, and income generating projects. In order to receive funding, the community itself must make a substantial contribution to the overall project and the project must be self-sustaining. Since 1990, the US Embassy has provided over one million US dollars to Self-Help projects throughout Ghana.

She also visited the Community Development and Youth Advisory Center, which received a grant through the US Embassy Democracy and Human Rights Fund. Using an impressive variety of venues, including radio, school, rallies, and inter-ethnic exchange programs, this project aims to bring a message of tolerance and peace to youths in the Northern Region.



From Tamale, the Ambassador continued to Bolgatanga. En route, she toured a Planned Parenthood of Ghana community clinic in Kparigu funded through USAID. Arriving in Bolgatanga, she swore-in 12 new Peace Corps Volunteers who will spend the next two years serving in the Upper East, Upper West, and Northern Regions. Finally, she concluded her trip with a visit to the Navrongo Health Research Centre and observed first-hand the work of the USAID-funded Community Health and Family Planning Project. **Photo:** Ambassador Nancy Powell cuts ribbon to officially open the HIV/AIDS Hospice at the Shekhinah Clinic in Tamale.***



The Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy conducted a week of media relations workshops for senior managers and public relations officers



of the Ministry of Information and Presidential Affairs and the Information Services Department, in an effort to support the Minister's vision of a more open and responsive information regime. Led by Phyllis Oakley, former State Department spokesperson and a two-time Assistant Secretary of State, the program covered a wide range of topics, including the role and responsibilities of a press office in a democracy, understanding what a journalist needs, communication planning, message coordination, the tools of a press office, and the use of opinion polls. The highlights of the program included a lively question and answer session from a journalist's perspective with Kwaku Sekyi-Addo, a discussion of ethics with GJA President Gifty Afenyi-Dadzie, an introduction to the internet taught by Public Affairs Section Information Resource Center director Charles Akpalu, and video-taped mock press conferences and interviews. **Photo:** Hon. Jake Obetsebi-Lamptey, Minister of Information and Presidential Affairs discusses a point with seminar leader, Phyllis Oakley. Right: Members of the Ministry of Information and Presidential Affairs and Information Services Department.***

Seminar on BuyUSA by The Commercial Service of the US Embassy in Accra

In February 2002, the Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy in Accra held a seminar at the Public Affairs Section to introduce to the Ghanaian business community, a new E-Business matchmaking tool called BuyUSA. Gerard Amangoua, Senior Commercial Specialist of the Abidjan Commercial Service, with support from the Commercial Service staff of U.S. Embassy Accra, gave an overview on BuyUSA and demonstrated how a company can register as a member.



U.S. companies can go to this website and register. Registration is free. Within 48 hours, the Commercial Service in Accra would contact the Ghanaian company and after verifying

their business information they may be qualified to become part of the BuyUSA database. Once qualified the Ghanaian company is seen as trustworthy and reliable. With a password, the Ghanaian company would always have access to qualified U.S. partners, U.S. catalogs online, marketing its company online, automated e-mail alerts, trade counseling, and U.S. commercial information and trade show listings. In the same way, U.S. companies that are registered members of BuyUSA can also access information on Ghanaian businesses.

The Commercial Service would want to encourage all businesses to visit the website www.buyusa.com and register in order to benefit from this rare opportunity. For further information you may call the Commercial Service on 230571 or 235096.***



Above: Mr. Eric Adotey, Economic and Commercial Specialist of U.S. Embassy Accra introduces websites to participants. Gerard Amangoua, (extreme left), answering questions from participants, supported by Eric Adotey.

Below: Participating local businesses at the BuyUSA seminar. To the extreme left is Esther Adielson-Addo, Commercial Clerk of U.S. Embassy Accra.

BuyUSA is an Internet based matchmaking tool that was established by the U.S. Department of Commerce in partnership with IBM Corporation. BuyUSA has several features that make it a complete transactional tool that allows foreign companies to go through the process of identifying U.S. suppliers and arranging shipment online. To make this process happen, a website, www.buyusa.com, has been set up where both U.S. companies and international companies, such as those from Ghana, can permanently put their information to be accessed on both sides. For example, a Ghanaian company that is interested in buying, distributing, and becoming a business partner of



CONTENTS

AMANNEE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002

| | |
|--|----|
| U.S. SEEKS TO HELP VICTIMS OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS | 1 |
| By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer. | |
| WEST AFRICAN STATES AGREE ON PLAN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING | 3 |
| By the Joint ECOWAS-UNODCCP/CICP Expert Group. | |
| TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS: THE SLAVERY THAT SURROUNDS US | 4 |
| By Ann Jordan, Director, Initiative Against Trafficking in Persons International Human Rights Law Group. | |
| CHILD TRAFFICKING IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: AN OVERVIEW | 7 |
| By Dr. Rima Salah, UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa. | |
| BE SMART, BE SAFE... | 11 |
| FACT SHEET: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS INITIATIVES | 13 |
| FACT SHEET: U.S. ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS | 15 |
| INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES | 16 |
| HIV/AIDS EDUCATION BIKE RIDE | 17 |
| By Praya Barunch, Peace Corps HIV/AIDS Coordinator. | |
| PICTURES IN REVIEW | 18 |
| VOA ENGLISH TO AFRICA PROGRAM SCHEDULE | 19 |
| SEMINAR ON BUYUSA BY THE COMMERCIAL SERVICE OF THE US EMBASSY IN ACCRA | 20 |
| COMMERCIAL NEWS USA | 21 |

COVER PHOTO: A montage of victims of human trafficking.

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