TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

JULY 2015

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

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DEAR READER:

Trafficking in persons is an insult to human dignity and an assault on freedom. Whether we are talking about the sale of women and children by terrorists in the Middle East, the sex trafficking of girls lured from their homes in Central Europe, the exploitation of farm workers in North America, or the enslavement of fishermen in Southeast Asia, the victims of this crime each have a name. And they each have been robbed of their most basic human rights.

The fight against modern slavery matters deeply to me. When I was a prosecutor outside of Boston in the 1970s, I worked to put people behind bars for rape and sexual assault. We were one of the very first jurisdictions in America to set up a witness protection program so that people weren't twice victimized—once by the crime and once for daring to tell the truth.

My time as a prosecutor brought home to me the simple lesson that justice is not simply a matter of having the right laws on the books; we have to back those words with resources, strategies, and actions that produce the right results. As Secretary of State, I am proud that the United States is using the tools at our disposal to deter, expose, apprehend, and prosecute those who seek to profit by trafficking in their fellow human beings.

Modern slavery doesn't exist in a vacuum. It's connected to a host of 21st century challenges, including the persistence of extreme poverty, discrimination against women and minorities, corruption and other failures of governance, the abuse of social media, and the power and reach of transnational organized crime. That is why the United States is working with our international partners at every level to attack the root causes of trafficking, warn potential victims, put perpetrators behind bars, and empower survivors as they rebuild their lives.

One thing is clear: No nation can end modern slavery alone. Eliminating this global scourge requires a global solution. It also cannot be solved by governments alone. The private sector, academic institutions, civil society, the legal community, and consumers can all help to address the factors that allow human trafficking to flourish. But governments have a special responsibility to enforce the rule of law, share information, invest in judicial resources, and espouse policies

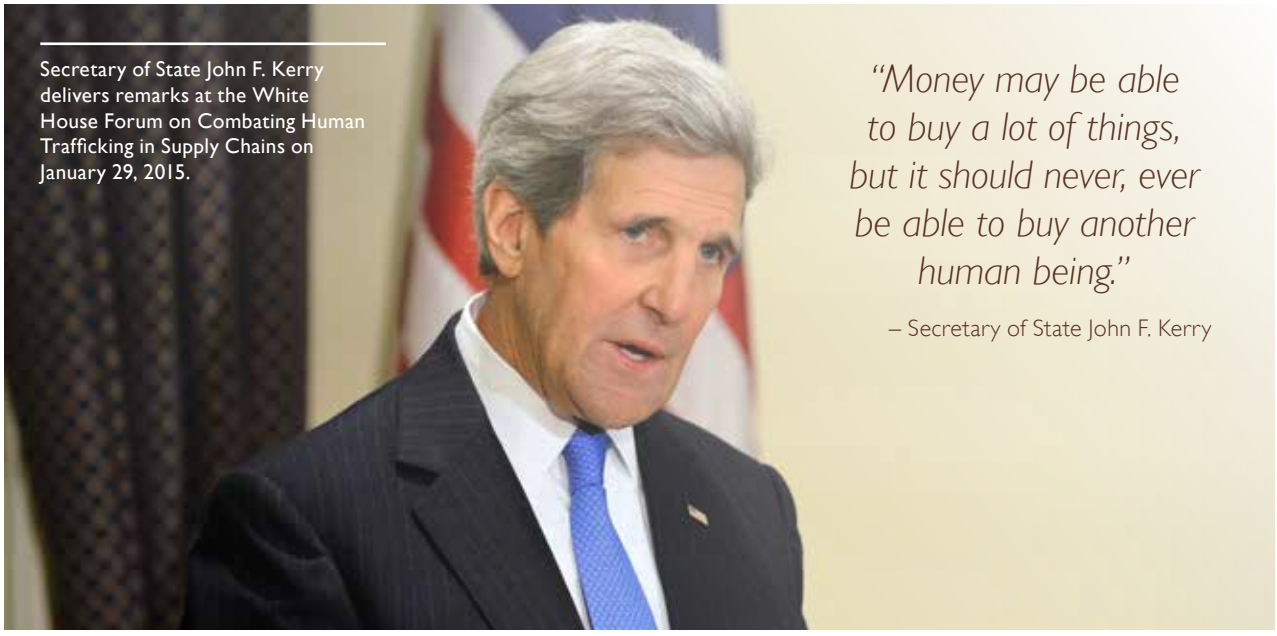
that urge respect for the rights and dignity of every human being. Human trafficking is not a problem to be managed; it is a crime to be stopped.

This year's *Report* places a special emphasis on human trafficking in the global marketplace. It highlights the hidden risks that workers may encounter when seeking employment and the steps that governments and businesses can take to prevent trafficking, including a demand for transparency in global supply chains.

The bottom line is that this is no time for complacency. Right now, across the globe, victims of human trafficking are daring to imagine the possibility of escape, the chance for a life without fear, and the opportunity to earn a living wage. I echo the words of President Obama and say to them: We hear you, and we will do all we can to make that dream come true. In recent decades, we have learned a great deal about how to break up human trafficking networks and help victims recover in safety and dignity. In years to come, we will apply those lessons relentlessly, and we will not rest until modern slavery is ended.

Sincerely,

John F. Kerry



Secretary of State John F. Kerry delivers remarks at the White House Forum on Combating Human Trafficking in Supply Chains on January 29, 2015.

"Money may be able to buy a lot of things, but it should never, ever be able to buy another human being."

– Secretary of State John F. Kerry

RAMONES

Fisherman raise their hands when asked who among them would like to go home, after their release was secured from a situation of forced labor on a fishing vessel.

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This Report and subsequent updates are available at **www.state.gov/j/tip**

"Every girl is sacred. Every girl deserves dignity. Every girl needs to dream. And no girl should ever be sold."

– An inspiring message supports and encourages girls in a Cambodian shelter

The Government of North Korea sends citizens to work abroad through bilateral agreements with foreign governments. Some workers are subjected to forced labor, prohibited from changing jobs, and denied a large portion of their earnings.

WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS?

"Trafficking in persons," "human trafficking," and "modern slavery" have been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-386), as amended (TVPA), and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Protocol) describe this compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor.

Human trafficking can include, but does not require, movement. People may be considered trafficking victims regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were exploited in their hometown, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking. At the heart of this phenomenon is the traffickers' goal of exploiting and enslaving their victims and the myriad coercive and deceptive practices they use to do so.

THE FACE OF MODERN SLAVERY

SEX TRAFFICKING

When an adult engages in a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, as the result of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion or any combination of such means, that person is a victim of trafficking. Under such circumstances, perpetrators involved in recruiting, harboring, enticing, transporting, providing, obtaining, or maintaining a person for that purpose are guilty of the sex trafficking of an adult.* Sex trafficking also may occur within debt bondage, as individuals are forced to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful "debt," purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their crude "sale"—which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free. An adult's consent to participate in prostitution is not legally determinative: if one is thereafter held in service through psychological manipulation or physical force, he or she is a trafficking victim and should receive benefits outlined in the Palermo Protocol and applicable domestic laws.

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

When a child (under 18 years of age) is recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, or maintained to perform a commercial sex act, proving force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary for the offense to be characterized as human trafficking. There are no exceptions to this rule: no cultural or socioeconomic rationalizations alter the fact that children who are prostituted are trafficking victims. The use of children in the commercial sex trade is prohibited under U.S. law and by statute in most countries around the world. Sex trafficking has devastating consequences for children, including long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and even death.

VICTIM STORIES

The victims' testimonies included in this *Report* are meant to be illustrative only and to characterize the many forms of trafficking and the wide variety of places in which they occur. They do not reflect all forms of human trafficking and could take place almost anywhere in the world. Many of the victims' names have been changed in this *Report*. Most uncaptioned photographs are not images of confirmed trafficking victims. Still, they illustrate the myriad forms of exploitation that comprise human trafficking and the variety of situations in which trafficking victims are found.

** On May 29, 2015, section 103(10) of the TVPA defining "sex trafficking" was amended by section 108 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (Pub. L. 114-22). Section 108 also changed the TVPA definition of "severe forms of trafficking in persons," which includes a reference to the term "sex trafficking." Because this* Report *covers government efforts undertaken from April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, this amendment is not reflected in this* Report.

FORCED LABOR

Forced labor, sometimes also referred to as labor trafficking, encompasses the range of activities—recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining—involved when a person uses force or physical threats, psychological coercion, abuse of the legal process, deception, or other coercive means to compel someone to work. Once a person's labor is exploited by such means, the person's prior consent to work for an employer is legally irrelevant: the employer is a trafficker and the employee a trafficking victim. Migrants are particularly vulnerable to this form of human trafficking, but individuals also may be forced into labor in their own countries. Female victims of forced or bonded labor, especially women and girls in domestic servitude, are often sexually exploited as well.

NEPAL | QATAR

With the help of a labor broker, 16-year-old Iok left Nepal for a job in Qatar. He was too young to legally migrate for work, but the broker who recruited him obtained a fake passport so Iok would appear to be 20 years old. The broker charged Iok an illegally high recruitment fee, so he left with a large debt that he had agreed to pay back at a 36 percent interest rate. Two months later, Iok died of cardiac arrest while working in harsh conditions. Migrant workers in parts of the Gulf, including Qatar, have complained of excessive work hours with little to no pay in scorching heat. Many workers also allege their housing complexes are overcrowded and have poor sanitation. Iok's parents received no money for his two months' work.

BONDED LABOR OR DEBT BONDAGE

One form of coercion is the use of a bond or debt. Some workers inherit debt; for example, in South Asia it is estimated that there are millions of trafficking victims working to pay off their ancestors' debts. Others fall victim to traffickers or recruiters who unlawfully exploit an initial debt assumed, wittingly or unwittingly, as a term of employment. Debts taken on by migrant laborers in their countries of origin, often with the involvement of labor agencies and employers in the destination country, can also contribute to a situation of debt bondage. Such circumstances may occur in the context of employment-based temporary work programs in which a worker's legal status in the destination country is tied to the employer and workers fear seeking redress.

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Involuntary domestic servitude is a form of human trafficking found in distinct circumstances—work in a private residence—that creates unique vulnerabilities for victims. It is a crime in which a domestic worker is not free to leave her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all. Many domestic workers do not receive the basic benefits and protections commonly extended to other groups of workers—things as simple as a day off. Moreover, their ability to move freely is often limited, and employment in private homes increases their vulnerability and isolation. Authorities cannot inspect homes as easily as formal workplaces, and in many cases do not have the mandate or capacity to do so. Domestic workers, especially women, confront various forms of abuse, harassment, and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence. These issues, taken together, may be symptoms of a situation of involuntary servitude.

FORCED CHILD LABOR

Although children may legally engage in certain forms of work, children can also be found in slavery or slavery-like situations. Some indicators of forced labor of a child include situations in which the child appears to be in the custody of a non-family member who requires the child to perform work that financially benefits someone outside the child's family and does not offer the child the option of leaving. Anti-trafficking responses should supplement, not replace, traditional actions against child labor, such as remediation and education. When children are enslaved, their abusers should not escape criminal punishment through weaker administrative responses to such abusive child labor practices.

UNLAWFUL RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

Child soldiering is a manifestation of human trafficking when it involves the unlawful recruitment or use of children—through force, fraud, or coercion—by armed forces as combatants or for other forms of labor. Some child soldiers are also sexually exploited by armed groups. Perpetrators may be government armed forces, paramilitary organizations, or rebel groups. Many children are forcibly abducted to be used as combatants. Others are made to work as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Young girls can be forced to marry or have sex with commanders and male combatants. Both male and female child soldiers are often sexually abused and are at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

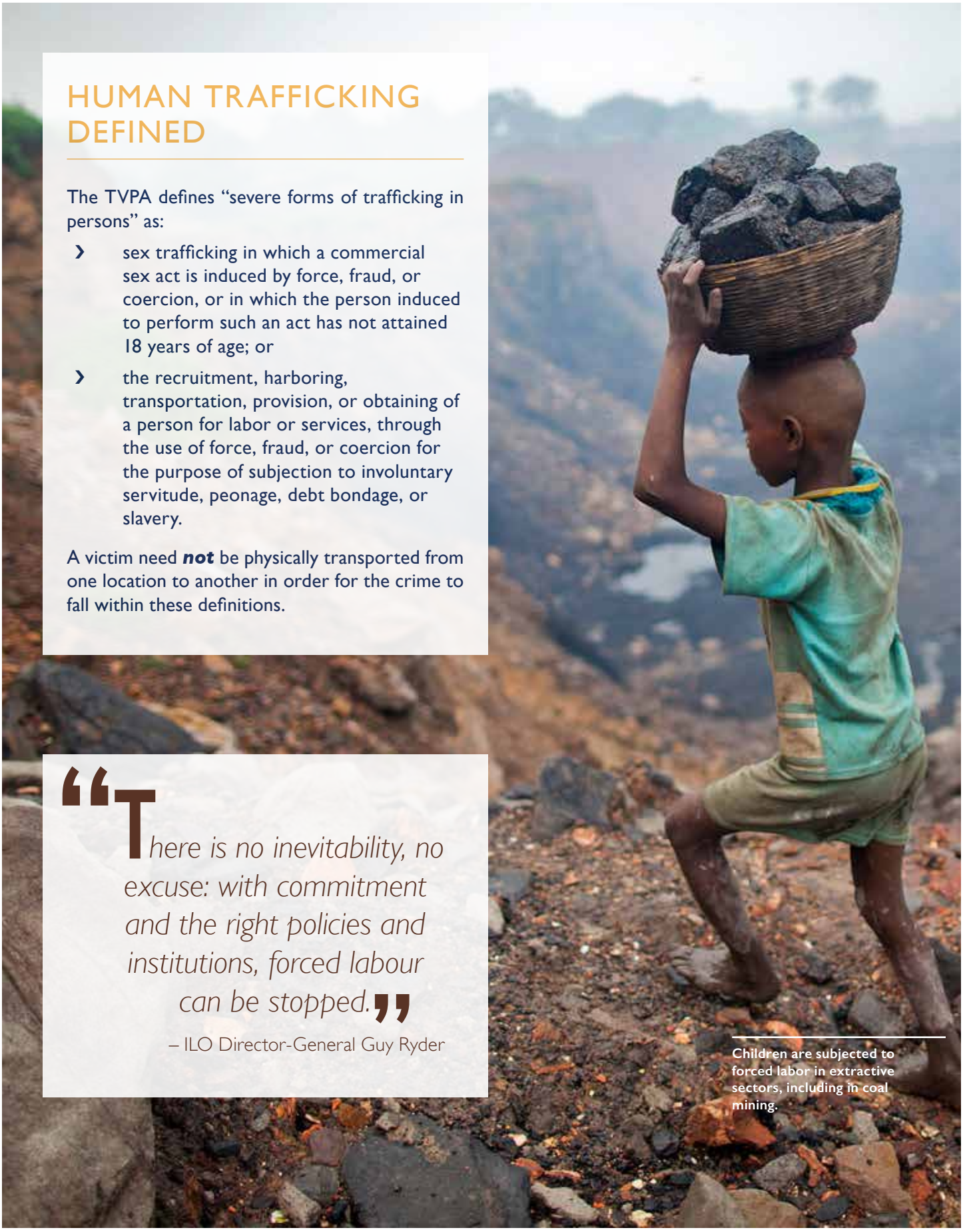
HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED

The TVPA defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as:

- sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

A victim need ***not*** be physically transported from one location to another in order for the crime to fall within these definitions.

> *"There is no inevitability, no excuse: with commitment and the right policies and institutions, forced labour can be stopped."*
>
> – ILO Director-General Guy Ryder



Children are subjected to forced labor in extractive sectors, including in coal mining.

DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

Religious leaders have long played a vital role in combating human trafficking. On December 2, 2014, leaders representing Anglican, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Jewish, Orthodox, and Islamic faiths met for the first time in history to sign a declaration pledging to end modern slavery and calling for action against it as a moral imperative.

These leaders urged their followers to work to find ways to end human trafficking. Each religious authority gave a statement urging the world to support this effort, including Hindu leader Mata Amritanandamayi, who said, "if we fail to do something, it will be a travesty against future generations."

We, the undersigned, are gathered here today for a historic initiative to inspire spiritual and practical action by all global faiths and people of good will everywhere to eradicate modern slavery across the world by 2020 and for all time.

In the eyes of God, each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity.***

We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored. Today we have the opportunity, awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative.

His Grace Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Venerable Bhikkhuni Thich Nu Chan Khong (representing Zen Master Thích Nhât Hanh)

The Most Venerable Datuk K. Sri Dhammaratana, Chief High Priest of Malaysia

His Holiness Pope Francis

Her Holiness Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma)

Dr. Abbas Abdalla Abbas Soliman, Undersecretary of State of Al Azhar Alsharif (representing Mohamed Ahmed El-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar)

Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi

Sheikh Naziyah Razzaq Jaafar, Special advisor (representing Grand Ayatollah Sheikh Basheer Hussain al Najafi)

Sheikh Omar Abboud

Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka

Rabbi Dr. David Rosen

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel of France (representing His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew)

**The Grand Imam of Al Azhar uses the word "religions."*
***The term "crime against humanity" has a particular legal meaning that the U.S. Department of State does not view as being implicated here.*

Religious leaders from around the world met at the Vatican on December 2, 2104, to sign the historic Declaration of Religious Leaders against Modern Slavery.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PALERMO PROTOCOL

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol). The impact of the Palermo Protocol has been remarkable—today, 166 countries have become a party to the Protocol. Many countries have implemented the "3P" paradigm of prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing the crime through the passage and implementation of national anti-trafficking laws. Countries continue to update their legal framework to better address this crime. In 2014, Haiti enacted the Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Burundi also enacted its first anti-trafficking law in 2014. In March 2015, the United Kingdom enacted the Modern Slavery Act to refine the country's legal framework.

While the promulgation of anti-trafficking criminal laws points to increased commitment to address the crime, challenges in fully implementing the promise of Palermo remain. In an effort to monitor implementation of the Palermo Protocol, the United Nations in 2004 established a special rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, who conducts fact-finding missions to study human trafficking conditions and provide recommendations on ways to better address the problem. Over the past two years, the special rapporteur has visited Malaysia, Morocco, Italy, the Bahamas, Belize, and Seychelles.

In 2009, the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) convened a working group on trafficking in persons to facilitate implementation of the Palermo Protocol and make recommendations to States parties. The working group has met five times and recommended governments involve civil society as partners in anti-trafficking efforts; consider investigating suspected traffickers using a wide range of tools including tax and labor law; and consider using administrative tools and regulations to combat the crime. The working group will meet again in November 2015 to continue discussion of the implementation of the Palermo Protocol and make further recommendations. While 2015 is a milestone, particularly in the near universal adoption of the Protocol, significantly more must be done in the next decade and beyond to fulfill its mandate.

SIERRA LEONE | KUWAIT

Thema paid approximately $1,480 to Sierra Leonean recruiters who promised her a nursing job or hotel work in Kuwait. Upon her arrival in Kuwait, however, Thema was instead forced to work as a domestic worker for a private Kuwaiti family. Thema worked all day, every day without compensation. Her employers forbade her from leaving the house or from using a cell phone. The family eventually returned Thema to her recruiter, taking advantage of a guarantee allowing them to obtain a refund for domestic workers they are not happy with. She ran away from the recruiter to the Sierra Leonean Embassy and was placed in a Kuwaiti government-run shelter with approximately 300 other former domestic workers. Thema likely faces the same fate as other trafficking victims in Kuwait who run away from private homes—the cancellation of her residence permit and deportation.

In 2014, *The New York Times* reported about Pavitra, a domestic worker who had migrated to Oman, where she was jailed for five months after being raped by her employer's husband and becoming pregnant. She was never paid for the eight months she had worked. In many countries, it is difficult for police to detect abuse, nonpayment of wages, and other trafficking indicators for workers in private residences.

"From the ground to the top we need to create network[s]. From governments, legal, medical, social institutions, businesses to schools, local communities, individuals. We have to involve all. Traffickers are extremely well connected. We need to be, too."

– Jana, survivor of sex trafficking, in her address to the UN Human Rights Council

Migrant workers from South and Central Asia flock to the Gulf for construction work. Some labor brokers charge workers recruitment fees, which are often difficult to repay and can facilitate debt bondage.

PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

Efforts to combat human trafficking around the world have advanced steadily over the past 15 years, since the adoption of the Palermo Protocol and the passage of the TVPA in 2000. Scores of countries have expanded implementation of the "3P" paradigm enshrined in these instruments, as governments investigate and **prosecute** trafficking cases, provide **protection** and services to victims, and put improved measures in place to **prevent** the crime from happening in the first place. Progress over this period of time has been nothing short of profound.

Yet, while the fight against human trafficking intensifies, millions of people continue to toil in compelled service, exploited for the enrichment of others in virtually every country in the world.

As the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated in 2014, forced labor in the private economy reaps some $150 billion in illicit profits each year; most instances of what the *Trafficking in Persons Report* refers to as human trafficking are covered by ILO's definition of forced labor. These billions flood the formal marketplace, corrupt the global economy, and taint purchases made by unwitting consumers. Long and complex supply chains that cross multiple borders and rely on an array of subcontractors impede traceability and make it challenging to verify that the goods and services bought and sold every day are untouched by modern-day slaves.

This means consumers of goods and services may be connected to human trafficking more closely than they imagine—connected, however indirectly, to the man in the Amazon compelled to mine for gold and to the woman forced into prostitution in that same mining camp; linked to the construction worker in the Gulf who is unable to leave an exploitative situation and to the woman in Indonesia who accepts a job as a caregiver and is instead made to work in a brothel; tied to the child in West African cocoa fields who is compelled to work instead of going to school; and to the Native American teenager who runs away from home and ends up a victim of sex trafficking near the oil fields in North America.

Governments, the private sector, and individuals can all make a difference when it comes to addressing human trafficking in supply chains. Each has the unique ability to leverage economic power to influence existing markets, and create new ones, where workers can enjoy decent work and human dignity, and are free from coercion and the exploitation associated with human trafficking.

THE RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SUPPLY CHAINS

Human trafficking has no boundaries and respects no laws. It exists in formal and informal labor markets of both lawful and illicit industries, affecting skilled and unskilled workers from a spectrum of educational backgrounds. Victims include adults and children, foreign nationals and citizens, those who travel far—whether through legal or illegal channels—only to be subjected to exploitation, and those who have been exploited without ever leaving their hometowns.

The fluid nature of the crime means traffickers can target vulnerable workers anywhere to fill labor shortages everywhere along a supply chain. In the electronics sector, for example, human trafficking may exist in the extractive stages (mining for raw material), in the component manufacturing stage (where separate pieces are produced or combined), and in the production stage (where a good is assembled and packaged in a factory).

Risks are present in the service sector, as well as in the production of goods. The sheets in a hotel may be made with cotton harvested by forced labor, the housekeeper cleaning the room may be exploited in labor trafficking, and the room itself may be used as a temporary brothel by sex traffickers. The international community must both understand the supply chains of the products used to provide a service (hotel sheets, airplane parts, medical equipment) and also examine the risks to those workers who provide them (house cleaners, caregivers, dishwashers).

In Pakistan, children as young as 5 years old are sold or kidnapped for forced labor in brick kilns. Some kiln owners hold government positions and use their power to facilitate illegal activities.

Debt bondage, which has been reported in the agricultural sector in South Asia, can cripple entire families; if an exploited elder cannot repay an initial debt, it can be inherited by his descendants.

Although human trafficking is found in many trades, the risk is more pronounced in industries that rely upon low-skilled or unskilled labor. This includes jobs that are dirty, dangerous, and difficult—those that are typically low-paying and undervalued by society and are often filled by socially marginalized groups including migrants, people with disabilities, or minorities.

Risks may also be higher in industries of a seasonal nature or where the turn-around time for production is extremely short. In these industries, the demand for labor increases drastically at the time of harvest or when a new product—be it a smartphone or a roadway—must be manufactured within a strict timeframe. For example, East and South Asian migrant workers in the garment sector are vulnerable to forced labor and labor exploitation, including long working hours and forced overtime, especially during periods of high consumer demand.

The urgency to hire employees can also result in a dependence on labor recruiters and their agents, which in turn creates layers of separation between the employer and the worker. This disconnect means that employers can be unaware of bad practices related to hiring within their operations, leaving workers exposed to exploitation.

Finally, in industries where fierce competition leads to constant downward pressure on prices, some employers respond by taking cost-cutting measures to survive commercially, from reducing wages or ignoring safety protocols, to holding workers in compelled service through debt bondage or the retention of identity documents.

> *"As we grow, we have to do it responsibly, and stay true to our values and uphold basic standards and rule of law. We have to keep striving to protect the rights of our workers; to make sure that our supply chains are sourced responsibly."*
>
> - President Barack Obama

LABOR RECRUITMENT IN GLOBAL MARKETS

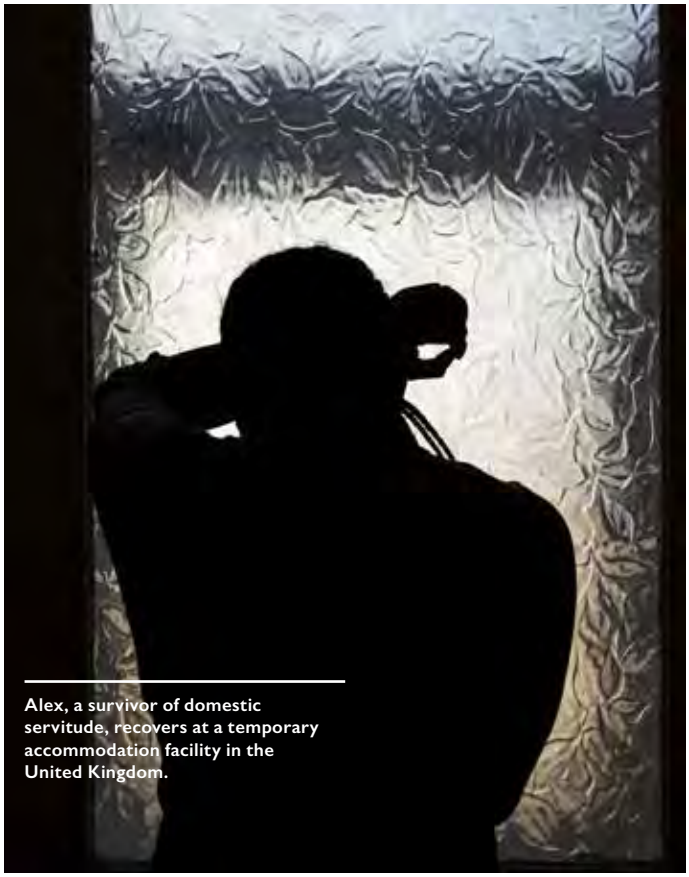
Practices that lead to human trafficking often occur in the recruitment process before employment begins, whether through misrepresentation of contract terms, the imposition of recruitment fees, the confiscation of identity documents, or a combination of these. The involvement of intermediaries (for example, labor brokers, middlemen, employment agencies, or recruiters) creates additional layers in the supply chain and positions these individuals to either assist or exploit.

Labor brokers function as a bridge between worker and employer and can provide helpful guidance and assistance in matching workers with jobs and arranging visas and documentation, medical checkups, pre-departure orientation, training, and travel. In many cases, labor brokers are both legitimate and important to connect readily available laborers to employers in need of a workforce. A worker's dependence on intermediaries, however, can also increase their risk of being subjected to trafficking. Recruiters sometimes promise individuals a high-paying job, good benefits, and reasonable working conditions to induce them into taking employment. Thereafter, when the nature or location of the job is not as promised, workers may find themselves in situations they cannot leave, either because they are held against their will or because they are indebted to their recruiters.

It is possible to identify areas of increased vulnerability in supply chains, including fraudulent practices in the recruitment process. Indicators of such recruitment typically include deception about job terms, living conditions, location, legal status, and wages, or more forceful methods such as document confiscation, debt bondage, isolation, or violence. Fraudulent recruitment practices can lead to exploitation at the place of employment, as an unsuspecting worker may endure excessive hours, poor living conditions, and wage theft. When workers are put or held in such situations through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, it constitutes human trafficking.

DEBT

Debt manipulation is one of the main methods by which workers can be exploited. Workers often borrow large sums of money to cover the costs of recruitment or "job placement" fees that can run anywhere from several hundred to tens of thousands of dollars. Workers may borrow money from family and friends, or mortgage their homes or ancestral lands believing they can easily repay their debts upon employment. These costs, which may also be combined with excessive or arbitrary interest rates, mean workers spend a period of time—sometimes years—working for very little or no wages to repay what they owe. For example, one report tells



Alex, a survivor of domestic servitude, recovers at a temporary accommodation facility in the United Kingdom.

Thai men and women in Israel's agricultural sector have endured abuses such as illegally low wages, excessive hours, and difficulty switching employers, conditions indicative of forced labor.

"After responding to an advertisement for a job in a Chicago hotel, I checked the legal documents, paid a recruiter fee, accepted the position and flew to New York City. I entered the United States lawfully on a nonimmigrant visa arranged through the 'recruiting organization' that brought me here. I was picked up at the airport, along with five other women, by men we all believed were affiliated with our recruiter. Shortly thereafter, however, our passports were forcibly removed, our lives were threatened and the situation became clear: we were being trafficked into the sex trade.

. . .

Labor recruiters and contractors are directly involved in the trafficking and exploitation of workers around the world, including men, women and children who enter the United States lawfully. These criminal recruiters make false promises about jobs and charge workers high recruitment fees that force workers to stay in abusive or exploitative working conditions under debt bondage."

– Shandra Woworuntu, survivor of sex trafficking and Founder, Mentari, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing human trafficking survivors with mentorship and job training

A 12-year-old girl checks her make-up. Traffickers have been known to make child sex trafficking victims wear make-up and clothes—and even ingest drugs—to appear older.

of a Nepalese man who took a loan at a 36 percent interest rate and leveraged his family land to pay a recruitment agent $1,500 for a job abroad. After 14 months of a three-year contract, the man still was not able to save any money because he was being paid far less than what had been promised to him. He reported that he would have liked to return to Nepal, but would have had to pay a large fine to break his contract and purchase his own return flight. He then would have had no means of repaying the loan.

At other times, employers withhold pay until the work is complete, meaning workers must forfeit the entirety of their wages if they leave prior to the end of the contract. Workers may endure abusive conditions for fear of losing their job and wages and defaulting on their debts. In many cases, unpaid debts result in threats to family members or loss of family property, adding further pressure for workers to stay in servitude.

Some employers require their employees to buy food and supplies from "company stores" where high prices, coupled with low wages, continue to drive workers further into debt. In Mexico, laborers sometimes live and work on farms enclosed by fences with barbed wire, where they must buy necessities, including food, from the company store at inflated prices. They are only paid at the end of the months-long season, and many workers report that at the end of the harvest they return home owing money.

CONTRACT FRAUD OR SWITCHING

When a labor recruiter changes the terms and conditions of employment after a worker has invested in the recruitment process—or transfers the worker to another labor recruiter who feels neither legally nor ethically bound to the original contract—an individual's vulnerability to forced labor increases dramatically. Contract fraud occurs when a worker enters into an agreement with a labor broker, either orally or in writing, and finds upon arrival that the conditions of employment have materially changed.

Not all workers sign contracts, and many of those who do are either illiterate or sign them in a language they are unable to read. Even when workers can read the contract and willingly sign it, they may be forced to sign a different and less protective contract once they arrive on location—the penalty for not doing so being the loss of the job and being stranded without the means to get home. When contract switching occurs, workers may find that the job they end up with differs substantially from the job offered. It may include longer hours, offer lower wages, and even be in a different industry or country. In some cases, the proposed job never existed at all.

PAKISTAN | SOMALIA

Ali and 19 other Pakistani men responded to a newspaper advertisement seeking fishermen to work in Saudi Arabia. Many of the men accepted the recruiters' promises. Others questioned the odd visa and recruitment process, but the recruiters assured them the official paperwork would be completed during a stop in Dubai. Once in Dubai, however, the recruiters confiscated the workers' passports and flew them to Somalia, where they were forced to work long, grueling hours, without pay, for a Somalian fishing company. One Saturday, the men found a way to call their families and a human rights NGO from a local mosque. Their boss entered the mosque, beat them, and confiscated their cell phones. Fortunately, the workers hid one phone and used it to organize a rescue mission through the NGO. Twelve of the men were able to return home.

DOCUMENT CONFISCATION AND ABUSE OF THE LEGAL PROCESS

Although human trafficking does not always involve migration, traffickers exploit the vulnerability of migrants who take risks to find work. In fact, migrants can be quite susceptible to human trafficking. Individuals leave their homes in search of work for a variety of reasons—fleeing poverty and unemployment, criminal violence, armed conflict, or natural disasters—and travel to other regions or countries where language barriers, their immigration status, physical and cultural isolation, and financial burdens can make them vulnerable. Some migrants may agree to pay a smuggler to cross into another country to obtain work, only to find that similarly exploitative circumstances await them once they arrive—whether at their original destination or someplace altogether different. Thus, migrant smuggling (a crime involving transportation and the deliberate evasion of immigration laws) can turn into human trafficking, a crime of exploitation.

Many migrant workers have their identity or travel documents confiscated by a labor broker, sponsor, or employer. Identity documents, in addition to being a necessity for freedom of movement, are particularly important for accessing assistance, healthcare, and other important services. Document confiscation is a key practice used by traffickers as the employer gains significant control over the movement of the worker, and may prevent a worker from leaving an abusive situation, reporting abuse, or seeking employment elsewhere.

Traffickers may also use the threat of the legal process to hold workers in compelled service. Visa sponsorship systems, like the *kafala* system in effect in many countries in the Middle East, tie the issuance of employment visas to one employer or sponsor. If a worker intends to continue working, he is tied to that sponsor and has few options for challenging abusive practices. The fear of arrest or deportation is often enough to prevent a worker from leaving an exploitative situation or reporting abuse to authorities.

ILO estimates there are 232 million migrant workers globally, and that this number will continue to grow. A lack of both cooperation among source and destination countries and effective public or private standards on labor migration create a space where recruiters, labor brokers, and employers can abuse migrants without consequence. The demand for cheap labor and weak rule of law, coupled with high unemployment in developing countries, fosters the phenomenon of trafficking in persons. These factors are compounded where corrupt officials facilitate irregular migration by accepting bribes or false documentation.

Reports indicate increasing numbers of univeristy and high school students are using social media to recruit their fellow students—some younger than 18 years old—into situations of sex trafficking.

> *"To the men who buy us, we are like meat. To everybody else in society, we simply do not exist."*
>
> – Kiya, survivor of human trafficking

THE CONNECTION TO SEX TRAFFICKING

When large populations of workers migrate for employment, especially to isolated locations, such as mining, logging, and agricultural camps, the incidence of sex trafficking in those areas may increase. Traffickers often advertise jobs for activities that are directly related to the primary industry, such as food service, mineral-sorting, or retail work in camp stores. Some individuals who take these jobs may instead find themselves the victims of sex trafficking. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, women who accepted jobs as waitresses in a bar near a mining camp in South Kivu province became trapped in debt bondage due to recruitment fees and medical expenses and were forced into prostitution to repay their debts.

Women may be forced into prostitution in the very regions and camps mentioned above where workers are in compelled service. Chinese companies operating in the Angolan construction sector recruit male Chinese workers, some of whom endure forced labor; these same operations also fraudulently recruit Chinese women who are later forced into prostitution.

NIGERIA | COTE D'IVOIRE

Natalie and Dara, eager to earn money and go to school, left Nigeria with the help of men who arranged their travel and convinced them good jobs awaited them in Cote d'Ivoire. Once there, Natalie and Dara were instead forced to have sex with men every night to pay back a $2,600 "travel debt." After two years of being subjected to sex trafficking, Natalie and Dara contacted a UN Police officer (who was in the area to investigate other suspected cases of human trafficking) and escaped. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime helped the girls return to Nigeria, where they participated in social service programs supported by regional NGOs. Their traffickers were convicted in 2014 and sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a $2,000 fine.

THE LINK BETWEEN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES AND SEX TRAFFICKING

Extractive industries involve the removal of non-renewable raw materials such as oil, gas, metals, and minerals from the earth. Although communities can benefit from such industries by using these natural resources for sustainable development, their extraction has also "triggered violent conflicts, degraded the environment, worsened gender and other inequalities, displaced communities, and undermined democratic governance," according to the UN Development Program. Furthermore, mining, drilling, and quarrying activities often occur in relatively remote areas with minimal infrastructure and limited rule of law, leading to the development of makeshift communities, such as mining "boom towns," that are vulnerable to crime.

Forced labor in extractive industries has been well-documented; however, the link between these industries and sex trafficking is increasingly an issue of grave concern among governments and advocates alike. Bolivian and Peruvian girls are subjected to sex trafficking in mining areas in Peru, and women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking near gold mines in Suriname and Guyana. NGOs have reported continued commercial sexual exploitation of children related to mining sectors in Madagascar. In some areas, this exploitation involves organized crime. For example, in Colombia, NGOs report organized criminal groups control sex trafficking in some mining areas.

Any discovery of raw materials will necessarily lead to a large influx of workers and other individuals, some of whom will create a demand for the commercial sex industry. In Senegal, a gold rush resulted in rapid migration from across West Africa; some of these migrants are women and children exploited in sex trafficking. Likewise, in the oil industry, individuals are sometimes recruited with false promises of work opportunities, but instead are exploited in the sex trade. Service providers in areas near camps surrounding large-scale oil extraction facilities, such as the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota, report that sex traffickers are exploiting women in the area, including Native American women.

Sex trafficking related to extractive industries often occurs with impunity. Areas where extraction activities occur may be difficult to access and lack meaningful government presence. Information on victim identification and law enforcement efforts in mining areas can be difficult to obtain or verify. Convictions for sex trafficking related to the extractive industries were lacking in 2014, despite the widespread scope of the problem.

Some workers in Brazil's ranching, agricultural, and logging sectors are subjected to forced labor.

OVERCOMING HARMFUL CULTURAL NORMS

Cultural norms, practices, and traditions play an important role in defining a country or society. Unfortunately, some cultural norms are at times used or distorted to justify practices or crimes, including modern slavery, that exploit and harm others. A 14-year-old girl may be advertised for sex, an 11-year-old boy may be hired as a domestic worker, or a young transgender woman may be subjected to trafficking in a popular sex tourism destination. Such customs may also create significant challenges that impede efforts to combat sex and labor trafficking.

Harmful cultural norms drive inequality, poverty, and discrimination. Depending on the particular country or region, these norms can be used to support, hide, or attempt to justify human trafficking and other criminal schemes, undermining laws designed to protect children and adults. Acquiescence to corruption and lack of transparency can also facilitate human trafficking and make it difficult to detect and combat.

Cultural norms that perpetuate inequality and a cycle of violence against women are closely linked with sex and labor trafficking in all regions of the world, from North America to South Asia and the Pacific. Other practices common to many regions of the world can harm children, migrants, and domestic workers and help facilitate forced child labor or exploitation of migrant workers. Examples include minorities forced to beg and steal throughout Europe, children compelled through debt bondage and other means to work in hazardous conditions in South American and African mines, or workers exploited aboard fishing vessels at sea in East Asia. In addition to increasing the vulnerability of individuals, harmful cultural norms like these can hinder a government's efforts to prevent human trafficking and create an environment in which the crime either remains hidden or is socially accepted—or even facilitated—and, therefore, more difficult to address by law enforcement.

Steadily increasing efforts to combat human trafficking around the globe challenge certain cultural norms. The Palermo Protocol, which has been accepted by 166 States parties and does not allow for any cultural variations, requires the criminalization of all forms of trafficking in persons, as do newly enacted domestic anti-trafficking laws. Likewise, public awareness campaigns and other prevention efforts can also push some traditions to change. In the Middle East, small robots have replaced young boys as jockeys in the sport of camel racing, and in East Asia and the Pacific, some governments have begun to strengthen their responses to child sex tourism by increasing public awareness that it is a crime and denying entry to known foreign sex offenders. African societies are beginning to recognize child domestic servitude as a crime and an injustice to children who instead deserve an education and a supportive environment in which to live. Efforts to prosecute, protect, and prevent human trafficking should continue to hasten the decline of harmful practices that had been defended as culturally justified and thus used to embolden those willing to enslave others.

In Haiti, parents send their children to live with and work for an outside family who agrees to provide food, clothing, and shelter. Many families, however, exploit these children and subject them to domestic servitude and physical, sexual, and other types of abuse.

PREVENTING DOMESTIC SERVITUDE IN DIPLOMATIC HOUSEHOLDS

"[D]omestic servitude has been detected in many OSCE countries, and it is important that we continue to work with the diplomatic community to prevent it."

–Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova,
OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Involuntary servitude of domestic workers in diplomatic households has been detected in the United States and in many other countries around the world. In 2014, OSCE released a handbook on preventing this form of human trafficking. The handbook is a useful reference tool designed for foreign ministry protocol departments and other relevant authorities and international partners to help regulate and oversee the employment of private domestic workers hired by diplomatic personnel. It informs officials about how to detect and respond to human trafficking, and protect the rights of domestic workers. The handbook highlights various preventive measures related to domestic servitude in the context of diplomatic immunity and presents several approaches to resolving disputes. It also provides examples of promising practices in addressing allegations of abuse that governments have adopted and put into practice. The handbook *How to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and protect private domestic workers* is available on the OSCE website at www.osce.org/handbook/domesticservitude. The 2015 *Trafficking in Persons Report*, for the first time, assesses the efforts of governments to proactively train and provide guidance to their diplomatic personnel to prevent such abuses.

A shopping center in Singapore advertises maids who will work for low pay without a day off. Many of the more than 1.35 million foreign workers in Singapore are vulnerable to human trafficking, including debt bondage and involuntary servitude.

Some fraudulent brokers lure young women abroad with promises of safe jobs and an education, but instead force them into sex trafficking, domestic servitude, or menial labor.

NEW RESEARCH ON ABUSIVE RECRUITMENT PRACTICES AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UNODC AND ILO COLLABORATE ON GLOBAL RESEARCH*

In 2014, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) each began research on the abusive recruitment practices known to facilitate human trafficking and emerging responses to protect individuals, particularly migrant workers, from such abuses. ILO and UNODC released their global research in June 2015. This coordinated research included three stakeholder meetings and field surveys conducted in different countries and regions of the world.

Some of the reports' key findings and recommendations include:

1. Workers who have to borrow from third parties to cover recruitment fees and who suffer from fraudulent and abusive practices during their recruitment are at higher risk of coercion and debt bondage. As a result, they are more likely to accept exploitative working conditions, making them vulnerable to forced labor or compulsory service.
2. There is an emerging trend toward stronger regulation to prevent such abuses. Various national regulatory models, including under labor and criminal law, have emerged to strengthen the governance of internal and cross-border labor recruitment.
3. There is further need to strengthen compliance with national and international standards. Government authorities, workers' and employers' organizations, businesses, and civil society have a key role to play in promoting compliance with standards of fair recruitment.
4. At present, illegitimate or unethical recruiters are usually not being prosecuted under anti-trafficking laws in identified trafficking cases. Abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices often precede exploitation on the job site, making it difficult to prove that unscrupulous labor recruiters were part of the trafficking crime or that they knowingly recruited victims for the purpose of exploitation.
5. Stronger efforts are required to ensure that migrant workers who experienced abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices gain timely access to effective remedies at destination or in their country of origin. Such efforts would create positive incentives for workers to submit complaints and to collaborate with law enforcement authorities.
6. Coordination between labor inspectors and other law enforcement should be enhanced within and across countries to address gaps in enforcement.

Some Malian boys are forced to work in artisinal gold mines for unscrupulous employers or guardians who confiscate their earnings.

These reports are available on UNODC's and ILO's websites:

UNODC—*The Role of Recruitment Fees and Abusive and Fraudulent Recruitment Practices of Recruitment Agencies in Trafficking in Persons*

ILO—*Regulating labour recruitment to prevent human trafficking and to foster fair migration: Models, challenges and opportunities*

VERITÉ REPORT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN FEDERAL AND CORPORATE SUPPLY CHAINS*

In a report released this year, the labor rights NGO Verité analyzes the risk of human trafficking in federal and corporate supply chains. The report examines a range of sector-specific risk factors, as well as social, economic, and political risk factors in countries of production or service delivery and in those that supply the labor. Eleven sectors were found to be the most likely to have a risk of human trafficking globally:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Electronics
- Fishing and Aquaculture
- Forestry
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Housekeeping/Facilities Operation
- Mining and Basic Metal Production
- Textile and Apparel Manufacturing
- Transportation and Warehousing

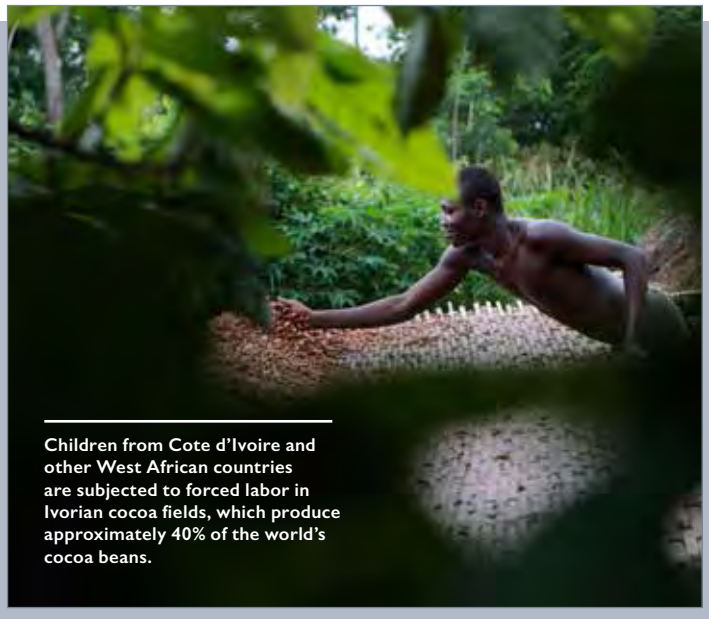
The report will also include an in-depth examination of more than 40 of the world's most important primary commodities, analyzing global production and trade patterns, reports of forced labor and the incidence of child labor (an indicator of the risk of forced labor), and the structure of each commodity's supply chain. Many, if not most, of these commodities can be found in products used by consumers every day, all over the world.

- Bamboo
- Bananas
- Beans
- Brass
- Bricks
- Cattle
- Charcoal
- Citrus
- Coal
- Cocoa
- Coffee
- Coltan, Tungsten, Tin
- Copper
- Corn
- Cotton
- Diamonds
- Fish
- Flowers
- Gold
- Granite and Other Stone
- Gravel and Crushed Stone
- Jewels
- Leather
- Melons
- Nuts
- Palm Oil
- Pineapple
- Rice
- Rubber
- Salt
- Shrimp
- Silk
- Silver
- Steel
- Strawberries
- Sugar
- Sunflowers
- Tea
- Tobacco
- Tomatoes
- Wheat
- Wool
- Zinc

This report is available on Verité's website:

Verité—*Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal and Corporate Supply Chains*

** Each of these reports was funded by the Department of State.*



Children from Cote d'Ivoire and other West African countries are subjected to forced labor in Ivorian cocoa fields, which produce approximately 40% of the world's cocoa beans.

Due to lack of legal status, Syrian refugees and other displaced persons, both adults and children, are extremely vulnerable to human trafficking, including in Gulf countries.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Government action is crucial in prosecuting trafficking cases, protecting victims, and preventing trafficking. By strengthening efforts in these areas, and by continuing to build partnerships with civil society and the private sector, governments are making serious strides in fighting modern slavery.

Governments can also play an important leadership role in combating human trafficking in supply chains. At home, governments can model and encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships to bring together businesses and anti-trafficking experts to generate ideas and solutions and promote voluntary responsible business conduct initiatives. Governments should set clear expectations for businesses on human rights issues and adopt policies that promote greater transparency and better reporting on anti-trafficking efforts in supply chains. For example, in March, the United Kingdom enacted the Modern Slavery Act of 2015, which requires—among other things—commercial organizations with annual sales above a certain threshold to prepare annual statements outlining the steps they have taken to prevent human trafficking from occurring in their supply chain or in any part of their business.

Of course, governments have the responsibility to enforce labor laws, treat all workers fairly, including lawfully present and irregular migrants, and root out corruption—all factors that can help prevent trafficking. International cooperation to strengthen labor migration policies and manage the increasing flows of migrant labor is critical to reducing the number of people who fall prey to human traffickers. Better regulation of private labor recruiters can also help protect workers.

Further, governments can provide a model for the private sector by better monitoring their own supply chains, which look much like those of the private sector. Tiers of subcontractors, lack of transparency, and the sheer magnitude of expenditure all make it extremely difficult for governments to ensure that taxpayer money is not supporting the illicit business of human trafficking. Nevertheless, the massive spending by governments to procure goods and services each year gives them enormous influence and leverage in the marketplace to minimize the risks of human trafficking.

In October 2014, the A21 Campaign held its first annual Walk for Freedom, a global human trafficking awareness event in London that captured the attention of supporters worldwide.

UNITED KINGDOM | GREECE | ITALY

When she was 14 years old, Cara met Max while on vacation in Greece with her mother. She fell in love with him and, after only a few weeks, Max persuaded her to move in with him, rather than return to England. He soon broke his promise to take care of her and forced Cara to have sex with strangers. Max first convinced her that the money she made was helping to keep them together; he later threatened to kill her mother if she tried to stop. In time, Max gave Cara to another trafficker who forced her to send postcards to her mother depicting a happy life in Athens. Cara eventually suffered an emotional breakdown and, once hospitalized, was able to ask for help. Hospital staff contacted her mother, who had no knowledge of Cara's abuse. They returned to England, where Cara is rebuilding her life and aspires to help other trafficking victims.

Governments can, and often do, prohibit government employees and contractors from engaging directly in trafficking in persons. In addition, some governments have policies in place that require contractors and subcontractors to ensure that employees have not participated in those activities that can lead to trafficking: charging recruitment fees, engaging in contract switching, and confiscating or retaining identification documents. These prohibitions must be backed up with effective enforcement.

An international organization provides shelter, mental health and medical services, and reintegration assistance to trafficking survivors at its shelter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

IOM and the Ukrainian government created the exhibition "Invisible in Plain Sight" to raise awareness for human trafficking, featuring real-life accounts of Ukrainian trafficking victims inscribed on cutouts of the human body. It debuted in Kiev and is being exhibited around Ukraine.

BEYOND WITNESS TESTIMONY

Victim testimony can be crucial to human trafficking prosecutions, but recounting exploitation and directly confronting traffickers can be traumatizing, especially when traffickers threaten retaliation or psychologically manipulate victims to distrust authorities and avoid seeking assistance. In addition to protecting victim-witnesses from their traffickers, governments should ensure victims have access to comprehensive services, including medical and mental health care, legal services, and if desired by the victim, case management support throughout the criminal justice process. Such protections are key to minimizing the likelihood victims will be traumatized again during the investigation and prosecution of their accused traffickers.

Governments that embrace a victim-centered approach have adopted the following promising practices in witness protection:

CARE

- Provide an opportunity for victims to consider their options and make an informed decision about participating in criminal proceedings.
- Provide access to legal counsel for victims who wish to participate in the investigation and prosecution of their traffickers.
- Permit a professional, such as a social worker, legal advocate, or counselor, to accompany and support victims throughout investigations and prosecutions.
- Collaborate with civil society and NGOs to ensure victims receive comprehensive support services, including mental health care, if requested.
- Offer victims placement in non-restrictive shelters that provide care appropriate to age, gender, and special needs.
- Help victims secure safe, long-term accommodation.
- Conduct safety planning and extend protection to victims' relatives, if necessary.

For example, the Australian program Support for Trafficked People, administered through the Australian Red Cross, provides income support, safe accommodation, and legal assistance, among other services, to victims, irrespective of their willingness or ability to assist with the investigation and prosecution of their traffickers. After 45 days of support, those who choose to aid the prosecution are eligible for additional support, including long-term accommodation, income and employment assistance, and skills training. Victims who are willing but unable to assist the prosecution are also eligible for extended support.

In addition, countries party to the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings must provide victims with a reflection period of at least 30 days to stabilize and carefully consider whether to participate in the prosecution of their traffickers. During this period, governments cannot make a decision to remove the victim from the country, nor can a previous removal decision be brought into effect.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- To the extent permissible by law, protect victims' identities and privacy.
- Allow victims to provide testimony in a manner that is less threatening, such as testimonies that are written or recorded, delivered *via* videoconference, or produced with audio or visual distortion.
- Provide a separate waiting area for victims, for example in court, to minimize interaction with the accused traffickers or their associates.

COMMUNICATION

- Explain to victims how their testimony will be delivered and to what extent their identity will be revealed, if at all, to the defendant and the public.
- Establish a point person to communicate in a language the victim understands and provide updates on the status of the case and information about available services.
- Inform and prepare victims on what to expect before testimony and court examinations, including realistic expectations in the sentencing phase.

Experts estimate millions of people are victims of sex trafficking in India. Some are exploited in brothels on Delhi's notorious Garstin Bastion or "GB" Road.

"I choose to believe that I went through all that I did, so that today I can help others. If I can educate one person or give hope to one victim of trafficking, then I am doing my job and everything I went through was worth it. I choose to be a victor not a victim—not just to survive, but to thrive. Today I tell my story whenever I can so I can help others."

– Barbara Amaya, survivor of sex trafficking, author, and advocate

NEW AT THE ILO: UPDATES TO THE FORCED LABOUR CONVENTION

On June 11, 2014, the tripartite constituency of the annual International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva comprised of governments, workers, and employers, voted overwhelmingly to adopt a protocol and recommendation to supplement the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour of 1930 (also known as the Forced Labour Convention or Convention 29).

PROTOCOL OF 2014 TO THE FORCED LABOUR CONVENTION

The new Protocol of 2014 (Protocol 29) updates the widely ratified Forced Labour Convention by addressing gaps in its implementation and reaffirming the obligation of States to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate forced labor in all its forms. It reaffirms the definition of forced labor contained in Convention 29 and provides concrete guidance to ratifying States on effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of forced labor. The legally binding Protocol 29 also complements other international instruments such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000) and mandates specifically that measures include actions against trafficking in persons. Protocol 29 is open to ratification by governments that have ratified the Forced Labour Convention and will enter into force one year after it has been ratified by two Member States of the ILO.

Obligations under Protocol 29 include:

- Developing comprehensive national policies and action plans for the effective and sustained suppression of forced labor;
- Providing victims with protection and effective access to remedies, such as compensation, irrespective of their presence or legal status in the territory;
- Sanctioning perpetrators;
- Strengthening and applying labor laws and policies to all sectors, as well as inspection services;
- Supporting due diligence by both the public and private sectors to prevent and respond to risks of forced labor; and
- International cooperation between and among States.

FORCED LABOUR RECOMMENDATION NO. 203

Also on June 11, 2014, the ILC adopted the Recommendation on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour (Recommendation 203), which provides detailed technical and practical guidance to States on the implementation of Protocol 29 in the areas of prevention, protection, and access to justice and remedies, such as compensation, enforcement, and international cooperation. This recommendation supplements both Protocol 29 and the Forced Labour Convention. As a non-binding instrument, Recommendation 203 is not open to ratification.

Provisions of Recommendation 203 include:

- Regulating labor recruiters and employment agencies, and eliminating recruitment fees charged to workers;
- Supporting the private sector to address the risks of forced labor in their own operations, as well as those of their suppliers;
- Immediate and long-term assistance for victims, taking into account the safety of the victims and their family members, and the protection of their privacy and identity, regardless of the victims' willingness to cooperate in criminal or other proceedings;
- A reflection and recovery period for foreign victims, as well as temporary or permanent residence permits and access to the labor markets, irrespective of their legal status; and
- International cooperation to prevent and address the use of forced labor by diplomatic personnel.

Poisonous dust inhalation, exposure to toxic chemicals, and mine collapses jeopardize the health and safety of children who work in Ghana's artisanal gold mines. Forced child labor has also been reported in this sector.

KAILASH SATYARTHI: RECIPIENT OF THE 2014 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

"When you are living in a globalized economy and a globalized world, you cannot live in isolation, all the problems and solutions are interconnected, and so the problem of child labor in any part of the world is your problem."

-Kailash Satyarthi

The world was formally introduced to Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and his work fighting child labor when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, together with child activist Malala Yousafzai, "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education." During his acceptance speech, he issued an impassioned call to action: "I refuse to accept that some children are born to live without human dignity." He further insisted, "[e]ach one of you has some moral responsibility. It cannot go on me alone."

For more than four decades, Mr. Satyarthi has worked relentlessly for the rights of children and waged a peaceful struggle to keep children in school, rather than in the workforce. He has helped to free children trapped in bonded labor, assisted them with vocational training and education, and challenged public discourse in India on child labor and child trafficking. In 1980, Mr. Satyarthi founded *Bachpan Bachao Andolan* (Save the Childhood Movement), which has removed more than 80,000 children from exploitation. His contributions have not only affected India, but have also changed the world: in 1998 he organized the Global March Against Child Labor, the world's largest campaign against child labor that led to the adoption of ILO Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labor. Mr. Satyarthi also founded Good Weave in 1994, which now implements a certification scheme to ensure no child labor is used in the production of carpets in India, Nepal, and Afghanistan.

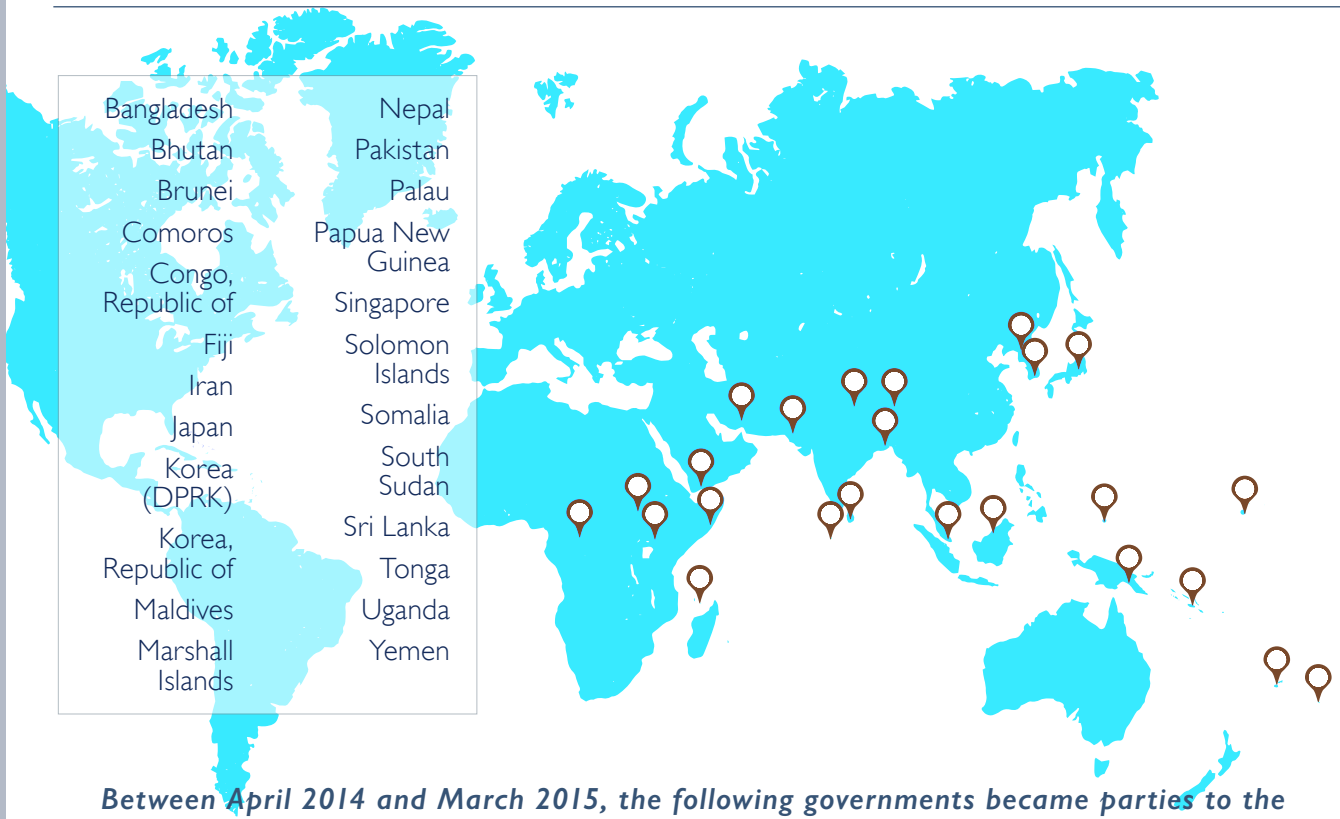
In 2007, the U.S. Department of State recognized Mr. Satyarthi's contributions to the global fight against forced child labor by selecting him as one of ten *Trafficking in Persons Report* Heroes.

In January 2015, President and Mrs. Obama met with Kailash Satyarthi, recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, and his wife, Sumedha. In the words of President Obama, "[t]he true measure of Kailash's efforts is not a single prize he has been awarded, but the tens of thousands of people who today live with freedom and dignity thanks to his efforts."

"Whose children are they who stitch footballs, yet have never played with one? They are our children. Whose children are they who mine stones and minerals? They are our children. Whose children are they who harvest cocoa, yet do not know the taste of a chocolate? They are all our children."

– Kailash Satyarthi, 2014 Nobel Prize laureate

Countries in the 2015 *TIP Report* that are not States Parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime



Between April 2014 and March 2015, the following governments became parties to the Protocol: Afghanistan, Angola, Barbados, Czech Republic, Eritrea, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

ISIL militants in Iraq have taken captive between 4,000 and 5,000 Yezidi women and children. Many have been sold and enslaved or forced into marriages or domestic servitude in Iraq and elsewhere.

UNITED STATES

Tanya was only 11 years old when her mother traded her to a drug dealer for sex, in exchange for heroin. Both Tanya's mother and the drug dealer have been indicted on multiple charges, including sex trafficking. In addition, the drug dealer was accused of rape as well as videotaping his sex crimes. At the end of the school year, after four months of such abuse and being forced to take heroin, Tanya went to live with her father and stepmother and confided in them about what had happened. Both her mother and the drug dealer face the possibility of life in prison if convicted on all counts.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR: AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD

Beyond the efforts of governments, companies can also take action to reduce the likelihood of trafficking in their supply chains and respect the rights of those who work to make their businesses successful.

There are many measures businesses can take to mitigate the risks of human trafficking throughout their operations. For starters, business leaders can create anti-trafficking policies that address the common risks in their operations and supply chains, ensure workers have the right to fair compensation and redress, train staff to understand the indicators of human trafficking, and put remediation plans in place before any allegations arise to allow for appropriate corrective action. Businesses should also work with government officials, NGOs, and recruiters in the countries where they source to gain a better understanding of workers' vulnerabilities and commit to making improvements.

A company can demonstrate its commitment to responsibly source goods and services by creating a clear and comprehensive anti-trafficking policy, which includes an enforcement mechanism that is applied throughout the company's supply chain. High-level executives should approve and promote such a policy and build it into company operations so supplier consideration goes beyond price and reliability, to include an assessment of labor practices. Among other things, an effective policy:

- prohibits human trafficking and those activities that facilitate it—including charging workers recruitment fees, contract fraud, and document retention;
- responds to industry- or region-specific risks;
- requires freedom of movement for workers;
- pays all employees at least the minimum wage in all countries of operation, preferably a living wage;
- includes a grievance mechanism and whistleblower protections; and
- applies to direct employees, as well as subcontractors, labor recruiters, and other business partners.

Indigenous peoples such as the Guarani of South America are often politically and economically marginalized, which increases their vulnerability to trafficking.

GHANA | UNITED STATES

At 13 years old, Effia moved to the United States with family friends, excited to learn English and go to school—something her parents in Ghana could not afford. When she arrived, these so-called friends forbade her from attending school and forced her to clean, cook, and watch their children for up to 18 hours a day. The father physically and sexually abused her. Effia received no payment and could not use the telephone or go outside. Six years later, after a particularly severe beating, she escaped the house and a neighbor called the police. With help from an NGO, Effia is finally in school and plans to become a nurse.

Such a policy sends a clear message to employees, business partners, investors, and consumers that human trafficking will not be tolerated. Coupled with effective risk assessments, monitoring, and serious remediation efforts, it can promote good labor practices throughout the supply chain.

Understanding how supply chains operate, where key suppliers are located, and what working conditions exist in those locations and sectors is vital to help a company gain control. By fully mapping its supply chain, down to the level of raw materials, a company can gain a better understanding of gaps in transparency. Companies can then create a plan to target those areas where high levels of spending overlap with industries or locations with high risks for human trafficking.

Once a risk assessment is completed, companies must begin to address problem areas, implement corrective measures, and monitor and enforce anti-trafficking policies. Monitoring often takes the form of social auditing, which—when done properly—can help to detect violations of company policies, including worker abuse. Yet, human trafficking is frequently difficult for auditors to detect. Companies that are serious about addressing forced labor in their supply chains should make sure that auditors are properly trained and equipped to look for known indicators of human trafficking, including the fraudulent recruitment practices discussed in this *Report*. Audits should be thorough, comprehensive, and periodic.

Finally, constant pressure on cutting costs can have a destabilizing effect on the proactive measures a company may take to prevent human trafficking. By incorporating anti-trafficking measures throughout an operation, including in company budget, training, policies, and protocols, business can make efforts to ensure that the dignity of workers throughout the supply chain is not sacrificed for higher profits.

Traffickers employ debt bondage, document confiscation, fraud, physical abuse, and threats of abuse, among other tactics, to trap victims in involuntary servitude.

> *"Let us ask ourselves, as individuals and as communities, whether we feel challenged when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have been produced by exploiting others. Some of us…close our eyes to this. Others, however, decide to do something about it …"*
>
> – Pope Francis

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Ruth's grandmother could not afford her tuition, and Ruth, due to physical disabilities, had a difficult time finding employment. When a family friend offered to both take care of Ruth and pay for her studies if she worked for him, the grandmother eagerly accepted. But the friend did not follow through on his promises. He never allowed Ruth to attend school, he forced her to work as his domestic servant and as an agricultural laborer for third parties, and he confiscated all her earnings. The man also raped Ruth repeatedly and abandoned her when she became pregnant. With the support of an NGO, Ruth received care and skills training and eventually returned to her community.

LOOKING FORWARD

This year's *Trafficking in Persons Report* presents information intended to highlight the risks many individuals encounter while seeking employment and the ways governments and businesses can take action to protect workers.

Governments, businesses, and individuals have a real opportunity to effect change by influencing the purchases they make and by demanding accountability and transparency in supply chains, promoting and enforcing policies that prohibit trafficking and the practices that facilitate it, and punishing those who perpetuate this practice.

By leveraging the strengths of different actors, the global market can become a place where innovation and growth thrive alongside a workforce free of human trafficking; supply chains create an environment of mutual benefit for both workers and business owners; and consumers celebrate the knowledge that their purchases are contributing to a system that elevates and respects human rights.

Dalits are extremely vulnerable to trafficking. These boys attend a Dalit school established by an NGO as a preventative measure against trafficking.

COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS: RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

On January 29, 2015, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) received the *Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons* from U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry. For more than 20 years, CIW has stood by Floridian tomato workers, organized communities, and pioneered a zero tolerance policy on forced labor and sexual assault through its Fair Food Program, which puts worker protections and social responsibility at the absolute center. This program ensures a price premium that buyers agree to pay and growers agree to pass on to farm workers, and provides worker-to-worker training sessions—on site and on-the-clock—at participating farms. CIW has also partnered with law enforcement to help uncover and investigate several modern slavery cases involving farm operations across the southeastern United States. Owing to its outstanding efforts, CIW has effectively eradicated human trafficking in the farms participating in the Fair Food Program.

These children manually stuff cigarettes with locally grown tobacco, which can negatively affect their health. Some Bangladeshi children are sold into bonded labor by their parents, while others are physically compelled to perform this dangerous work.

MODERN SLAVERY AS A TACTIC IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Armed groups, violent extremists, and militias fuel conflicts that devastate communities and weaken social and governmental structures, leaving adults and children defenseless and vulnerable. Women and children in armed conflicts are particularly vulnerable to multiple abuses, including those involving human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence.

The use of modern slavery as a tactic in the armed conflicts in Iraq and Syria is particularly alarming. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as other armed groups and militias, continue to intimidate populations and devastate communities through unconscionable violence, fear, and oppression. ISIL has made the targeting of women and children, particularly from Yezidi and other minority groups, a hallmark of its campaign of atrocities. In the past year, ISIL has abducted, systematically raped, and abused thousands of women and children, some as young as 8 years of age. Many of the horrific human rights abuses that ISIL has engaged in also amount to human trafficking. Women and children are sold and enslaved, distributed to ISIL fighters as spoils of war, forced into marriage and domestic servitude, or subjected to horrific physical and sexual abuse. ISIL has established "markets" where women and children are sold with price tags attached and has published a list of rules on how to treat female slaves once captured.

In a recent UN report, women and girls who managed to escape from ISIL recounted how they were treated. A young woman shared how she was taken to a school and given to an ISIL emir as his slave, and in another case, 150 unmarried girls and women were reportedly transported to Syria from Iraq to be given to ISIL fighters as rewards. Some isolated reports indicate ISIL has begun transporting captive women and girls to buyers in the Gulf. Men and boys are also vulnerable to trafficking, as entire families are reportedly abducted and forced to work in agriculture, such as on sheep and poultry farms in Iraq. Additionally, there is growing concern that some ISIL recruits from Central Asian countries may be vulnerable to trafficking after arriving in Syria. Others, deceived by recruiters promising jobs in Turkey, are later taken to Syria and forced by extremist groups to fight, work, or endure sexual servitude.

ISIL continues to actively and unlawfully recruit, including by abduction, train, and use children—some as young as 12 years old—as soldiers in Iraq and Syria. These children are forced to undergo military training to join the front lines of combat, while some are deployed as human shields or made to patrol ISIL checkpoints. In training camps, children nicknamed "Cubs of the Caliphate" are trained to use weapons, make bombs, and deploy as suicide bombers.

Whole communities in Iraq and Syria continue to be displaced internally and in neighboring countries, as increasing numbers of adults and children flee the horrors of war, including those perpetrated by ISIL and other armed groups. The UN estimates 2.8 million individuals in Iraq have been displaced and nearly four million Syrians have fled the country, mostly to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. This displacement is compounded by the use of human trafficking as a tactic by ISIL in the armed conflict.

The use of modern slavery in armed conflicts is not unique to ISIL, but is also evident in the case of other armed groups that are forcibly recruiting children and training them to be soldiers or otherwise exploiting them. Boko Haram has forcibly recruited and used child soldiers as young as 12 years old, and abducted women and girls in the northern region of Nigeria, some of whom it later subjected to domestic servitude, other forms of forced labor, and sexual servitude through forced marriages to its militants. In Somalia, al-Shabaab has recruited and used children in armed conflict. The Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan rebel group that operates in eastern regions of the Central African Republic, enslaves boys and girls for use as cooks, porters, concubines, and combatants. The use of human trafficking in the midst of armed conflicts further amplifies the unspeakable devastation communities and families experience and perpetuates intimidation and fear among oppressed communities.

IRAQ

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) overran Tariq's town and kidnapped his daughter, along with the wives and daughters of many others. After a week of silence, Tariq finally received a phone call—his daughter had gained access to a phone shared by several of the girls imprisoned, and she had called to tell him she was going to be sold that day for $10. In the past year, ISIL has abducted and exploited thousands of women and children, sold them in markets and sexually enslaved them, forced them into marriages, or subjected them to forced labor. Family members like Tariq are often left helpless, with knowledge of their daughters' or wives' whereabouts but unable to prevent the horrendous abuse of their loved ones.

CHILD SOLDIERS PREVENTION ACT LIST

The Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (CSPA) was signed into law on December 23, 2008 (Title IV of Pub. L. 110-457), and took effect on June 21, 2009. The CSPA requires publication in the annual *Trafficking in Persons Report* of a list of foreign governments identified during the previous year as having governmental armed forces or government-supported armed groups that recruit and use child soldiers, as defined in the act. These determinations cover the reporting period beginning April 1, 2014, and ending March 31, 2015.

For the purpose of the CSPA, and generally consistent with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the term "child soldier" means:

(i) any person under 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities as a member of governmental armed forces;

(ii) any person under 18 years of age who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces;

(iii) any person under 15 years of age who has been voluntarily recruited into governmental armed forces; or

(iv) any person under 18 years of age who has been recruited or used in hostilities by armed forces distinct from the armed forces of a state.

The term "child soldier" includes any person described in clauses (ii), (iii), or (iv) who is serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a "cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard, or sex slave."

Governments identified on the list are subject to restrictions, in the following fiscal year, on certain security assistance and commercial licensing of military equipment. The CSPA, as amended, prohibits assistance to governments that are identified in the list under the following authorities: International Military Education and Training, Foreign Military Financing, Excess Defense Articles, and Peacekeeping Operations, with exceptions for some programs undertaken pursuant to the Peacekeeping Operations authority. The CSPA also prohibits the issuance of licenses for direct commercial sales of military equipment to such governments. Beginning October 1, 2015, and effective throughout Fiscal Year 2016, these restrictions will apply to the listed countries, absent a presidential national interest waiver, applicable exception, or reinstatement of assistance pursuant to the terms of the CSPA. The determination to include a government in the CSPA list is informed by a range of sources, including first-hand observation by U.S. government personnel and research and credible reporting from various UN entities, international organizations, local and international NGOs, and international media outlets.

The 2015 CSPA List includes governments in the following countries:

1. Burma
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
3. Nigeria
4. Somalia
5. South Sudan
6. Sudan
7. Syria
8. Yemen

> *"[In August 2013,] a child came in who appeared to be between 10 and 12 years old, called 'Abu Bakr.' His hand had been cut by a piece of metal. [We] talked to his escort, an armed man from 'Da`esh' [ISIL] who came and brought him. He said this boy was a guard in their prison in Tal Abyad, and he had the job of whipping prisoners."*
>
> – A doctor who worked at a clinic in Tal Abyad in Raqqa governorate, on treating a child injured while serving in an ISIL military camp.

This child in Syria wears a hat bearing the ISIL logo. Reports indicate ISIL kidnaps and forcibly recruits children as young as 12 years old for combat and other military operations.

In Somalia, al-Shabaab recruits children for use by its militias typically through abduction and deception. This terrorist group conducts forced recruitment at mosques, Koranic schools, and facilities for neglected children and uses children for direct participation in hostilities and other support functions in southern and central Somalia.

NIGERIA

Aisha was at a friend's wedding when she was abducted by Boko Haram, along with her sister, the bride, and the bride's sister. They were taken to a camp where her friends were forcibly married to Boko Haram fighters. Aisha, at 19 years old, had to learn how to fight; she was trained how to shoot and kill, detonate bombs, and execute attacks on villages. She was forced to participate in armed operations, including against her own village; those that refused were buried in a mass grave. Aisha saw more than 50 people killed, including her sister, before she managed to escape.

In Yemen, children are unlawfully recruited and used in armed conflict on the front lines, to man checkpoints, and even as human shields or suicide bombers.

2015 TIP REPORT HEROES

Each year, the Department of State honors individuals around the world who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking. These individuals are NGO workers, lawmakers, police officers, and concerned citizens who are committed to ending modern slavery. They are recognized for their tireless efforts—despite resistance, opposition, and threats to their lives—to protect victims, punish offenders, and

BETTY PEDRAZA LOZANO
COLOMBIA

Since July 2003, Betty Pedraza Lozano has served as the founder and director of Corporación Espacios de Mujer, a Colombian NGO that provides victim services to adults, especially women, and children who suffer violence and abuse within the context of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. As director, she promotes and advocates for women's empowerment and victims' rights, as well as gender and human rights. She has worked with the Colombian government and international organizations to implement protocols for victim care.

A native of Medellín, Ms. Pedraza focuses much of her attention in the Antioquia department, where virginity auctions, sex tourism, and child pornography are rampant, and women and children are often exploited in prostitution in the mining and tourism sectors. She coordinated an anti-trafficking awareness campaign called "Porque se Trata de Ti," or "Because it's all about you," which provides educational information on prevention efforts, victim identification, and victim services.

Ms. Pedraza is the co-founder of the Colombian Alliance of Civil Society Organizations against Human Trafficking, the first NGO network on trafficking in the country, and represents Colombia in the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women.

AMEENA SAEED HASAN
IRAQ

Ameena Saeed Hasan is a Yezidi Kurd, a former member of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, and a fearless voice for the Yezidi religious minority in northern Iraq. This community has been the target of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since the summer of 2014 when they began kidnapping thousands of members of the Yezidi community, including women and girls who are subjected to forced marriages, sexual slavery, systematic rape, and domestic servitude.

Resolved to assist victims of some of the worst forms of human rights abuses and human trafficking, Ms. Hasan participated in an effort to create a registry of ISIL captives and the locations where they were being held. She also joined a team of activists sponsored by the Kurdistan Regional Government that has helped secure the release of approximately 100 former captives.

Ms. Hasan's courageous leadership has been vital to support fellow members of the Yezidi community who have sought assistance from the U.S. government in the face of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq. She participated as a civil society representative in the White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism in February 2015, where she delivered remarks on captive Yezidi women.

raise awareness of ongoing criminal practices in their countries and abroad. For more information about current and past Trafficking in Persons Report Heroes, including how to connect with them, please visit the Trafficking in Persons Report Heroes Global Network at www.tipheroes.org.

GITA MIRUŠKINA
LATVIA

Gita Miruškina, an innovative lawyer for the Latvian NGO Safe House, has dedicated her life to assisting victims of human trafficking and enhancing the legal understanding of trafficking in persons in Latvia and the European Union. As one of the principal NGOs working on trafficking in Latvia, Safe House works directly with sex and labor trafficking victims, assisting them in their recovery and providing vital legal aid.

Ms. Miruškina also has been instrumental in alerting the European Union to the issue of "sham marriages"—brokered marriages between European Union passport-holders and third-country nationals, arranged so the latter can become eligible for immigration benefits—a practice that often leads to sex and labor trafficking, especially of women from Eastern Europe.

In the past six years, Ms. Miruškina has assisted more than 150 trafficking victims and acted as their legal representative in nearly 30 trials, including Latvia's first labor trafficking trial, a landmark case that is still ongoing. Ms. Miruškina's professionalism and dedication to a victim-centered approach has been lauded by victims and their families, as well as by judges and prosecutors who frequently consult her for professional advice.

NOROTIANA RAMBOARIVELO JEANNODA
MADAGASCAR

Norotiana Ramboarivelo Jeannoda launched the National Union of Social Workers in Madagascar in 2005, which quickly became a leading civil society organization promoting human rights and combating child sex tourism and human trafficking. She is among the most persistent and outspoken members of civil society advocating in Madagascar on behalf of victims of human trafficking. Ms. Ramboarivelo Jeannoda counsels victims trapped in abusive situations abroad, meets victims at the airport who return destitute and in need of care, and coordinates with border police to institute protective measures.

Ms. Ramboarivelo Jeannoda has prodded the government to do more by documenting the numbers of Malagasy victims exploited in the Middle East and of those who have committed suicide as a result of their desperation. She has led civil society groups to plead publicly for the case of transnational trafficking victims. In addition, Ms. Ramboarivelo Jeannoda was instrumental in ensuring that new draft anti-trafficking legislation addressed the needs of victims, and her advocacy efforts led to the adoption of Madagascar's new National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

CATHERINE GROENENDIJK-NABUKWASI
SOUTH SUDAN

As Founder of Confident Children out of Conflict (CCC), Catherine Groenendijk-Nabukwasi is a pioneer in the fight against child trafficking in South Sudan. Ms. Groenendijk-Nabukwasi established CCC in 2007 as a drop-in center for girls vulnerable to sex trafficking, at a time when no other organizations were serving that population. Between 2010 and 2013, Ms. Groenendijk-Nabukwasi raised funds to build a shelter, which provides full-time residential care for 40 girls, ages 3 to 18, as well as food, health care, scholarships, educational support and mentoring, recreational activities, and counseling. The children learn trades, such as making handicrafts, cooking and farming as a means for income generation, and develop skills in conflict mitigation, stress and anger management, and cultivating self-confidence.

CCC also ensures 600 vulnerable boys and girls in the impoverished communities of Juba attend school by paying tuition and providing basic necessities, including books, uniforms, and shoes. CCC provides outreach services to 10 schools and raises community awareness about child protection and gender-based violence. CCC also supports survivors of trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence displaced by the current civil conflict. In addition, Ms. Groenendijk-Nabukwasi has consistently engaged the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on justice for children, specifically on the issue of human trafficking.

MOSES BINOGA
UGANDA

Moses Binoga, Coordinator of the Ugandan National Counter Human Trafficking Taskforce, has worked tirelessly to bring together the government-led taskforce and the civil society coalition against human trafficking into one coordinated effort to better identify and assist trafficking victims at home and abroad. With Mr. Binoga at the helm, the national taskforce has conducted training programs, created public awareness materials, held pre-departure information briefings for intending migrants, drafted guidelines on victim care for investigators, and is designing a national database in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration for sex and labor trafficking statistics. Due to his urging, the government has substantially increased its emphasis on prosecuting trafficking offenses.

Mr. Binoga is a strong voice on behalf of victims and has brought attention to their stories, often featured in Uganda's leading national papers. He regularly deals directly with victims and answers their calls for assistance while also effectively coordinating assistance between officials and NGOs. Additionally, he proactively engages diplomatic missions in Uganda to establish agreements to prevent Ugandans from being subjected to human trafficking abroad.

PAROSHA CHANDRAN
UNITED KINGDOM

Parosha Chandran, an extraordinarily dedicated human rights barrister, has spent the last 18 years shaping the development of national and international law and policy on human trafficking in the United Kingdom and globally. With a rare multidisciplinary perspective, she has set critical legal precedents to protect the rights of trafficking victims.

Ms. Chandran has appealed cases in which victims were punished as criminals for crimes committed as a result of being subjected to trafficking; enabled trafficking victims to seek redress by taking civil action against the police for having failed to investigate the alleged crimes; and brought forward a case where the court established the right to refugee status for victims of human trafficking. Ms. Chandran's cases often have exposed legal protection gaps, which have led to legislative or policy reforms.

As one of the world's leading practitioners in the field, Ms. Chandran is recognized as a global expert on human trafficking by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Council of Europe. She works closely with NGOs and has a strong commitment to *pro bono* work. Ms. Chandran is the co-founder of the Trafficking Law and Policy Forum, an educational think tank based in London with a diverse membership.

TONY MADDOX
UNITED STATES

Tony Maddox is the Executive Vice President and Managing Director of CNN International (CNNi) and creator of the CNN Freedom Project, the longest-running awareness and investigative campaign on modern slavery on a global news channel. CNNi launched the CNN Freedom Project in 2011 to shine a spotlight on modern slavery, amplify the voices of survivors, highlight effective prevention and victim assistance efforts, and investigate the criminal enterprises involved. Mr. Maddox's personal conviction that combating trafficking is a shared responsibility was the catalyst for the concept behind the Freedom Project. Due to his dedication and relentless advocacy, what began as a yearlong project became a much longer commitment. The Freedom Project is celebrating its fifth year of production, and is one of the most successful and highly visible programming initiatives on CNNi.

Under Mr. Maddox's leadership, CNNi has enlisted dozens of correspondents and crews around the world, and has published more than 400 investigative stories on modern slavery. Various NGOs report that Freedom Project stories have led to more than 1,000 survivors receiving assistance, sparked more than $24 million in donations to anti-trafficking organizations globally, contributed to changing laws and corporate policies, and inspired new NGOs and grassroots campaigns around the world. CNNi currently reaches more than 291 million households and hotel rooms worldwide.

"Every citizen can take action by speaking up and insisting that the clothes they wear, the food they eat, and the products they buy are made free of forced labor. Business and non-profit leaders can ensure their supply chains do not exploit individuals in bondage."

– President Barack Obama

Some Chinese factories subject internal migrants to forced labor, at times compelling them to work in the presence of hazardous chemicals without proper safety equipment.

METHODOLOGY

The Department of State prepared this *Report* using information from U.S. embassies, government officials, nongovernmental and international organizations, published reports, news articles, academic studies, research trips to every region of the world, and information submitted to **tipreport@state.gov**. This email address provides a means by which organizations and individuals can share information with the Department of State on government progress in addressing trafficking.

U.S. diplomatic posts and domestic agencies reported on the trafficking situation and governmental action to fight trafficking based on thorough research that included meetings with a wide variety of government officials, local and international NGO representatives, officials of international organizations, journalists, academics, and survivors. U.S. missions overseas are dedicated to covering human trafficking issues. The *2015 Trafficking in Persons Report* covers government efforts undertaken from April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015.

CZECH REPUBLIC | SWITZERLAND | UNITED KINGDOM

A man approached Bruno outside a homeless shelter in Prague and offered to help him find work and housing in the United Kingdom. He even offered to lend Bruno money for travel, commiserating he had once received help from a stranger. Bruno accepted and traveled with the man and seven other people from Prague to the United Kingdom *via* Switzerland. The recruiter took everyone's identification documents and, once in the United Kingdom, turned their documents over to the men's new bosses instead of back to the workers. When Bruno arrived at his new boss's house, he was forced, through beatings and threats, to perform construction and factory work, clean, and provide childcare for almost 20 hours every day. He ate one meal each day and was never paid. Bruno eventually fled to the Czech Embassy in London, and an NGO helped move him to a support shelter in the Czech Republic.

TIER PLACEMENT

The Department places each country in this *Report* onto one of four tiers, as mandated by the TVPA. This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking than on the size of the country's problem. The analyses are based on the extent of governments' efforts to reach compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking (see page 49), which are generally consistent with the Palermo Protocol.

While Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem or that it is doing enough to address the problem. Rather, a Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of human trafficking, has made efforts to address the problem, and meets the TVPA's minimum standards. Each year, governments need to demonstrate appreciable progress in combating trafficking to maintain a Tier 1 ranking. Indeed, Tier 1 represents a responsibility rather than a reprieve. A country is never finished with the job of fighting trafficking.

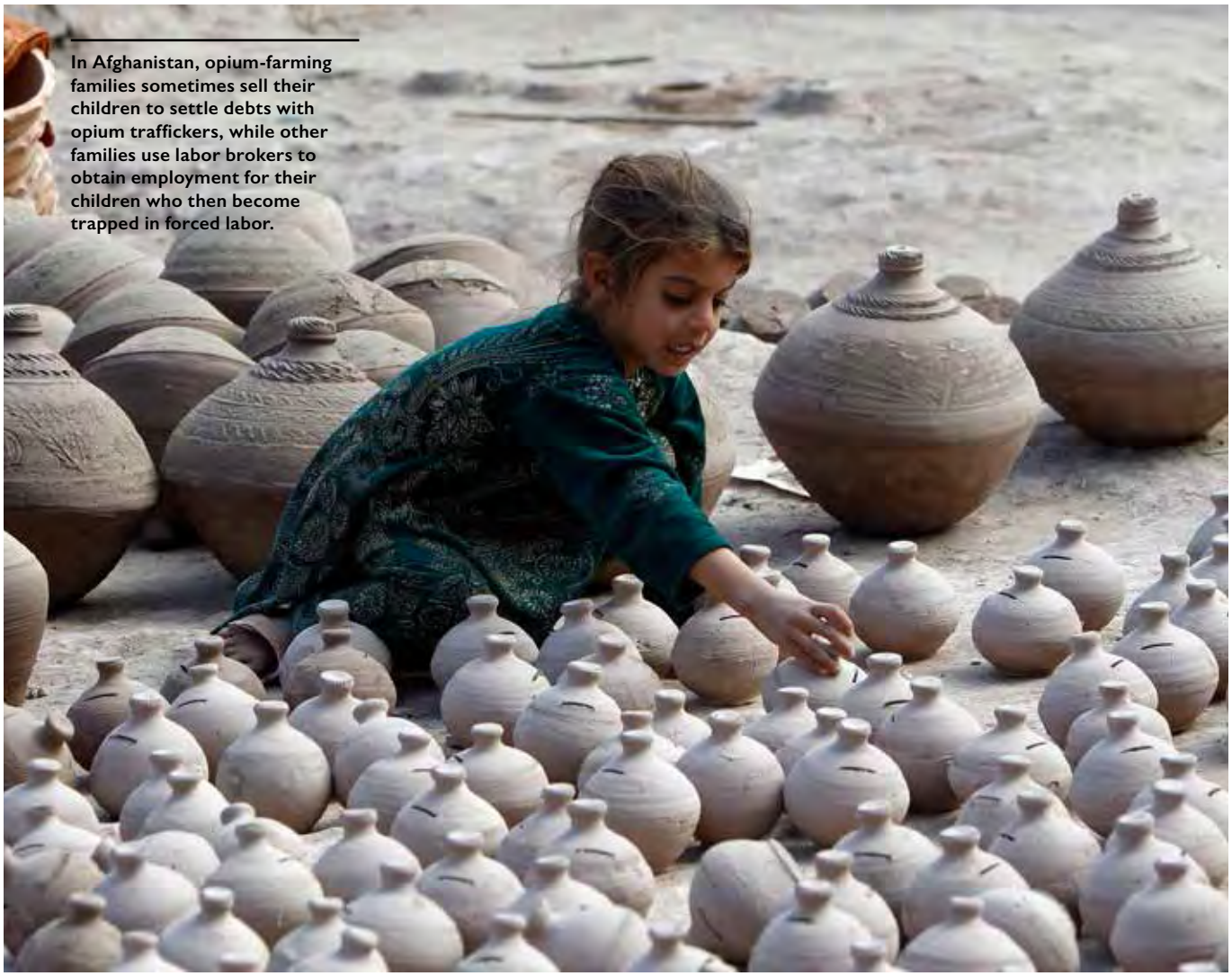
Tier rankings and narratives in the *2015 Trafficking in Persons Report* reflect an assessment of the following:

- enactment of laws prohibiting severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined by the TVPA, and provision of criminal punishments for trafficking offenses;
- criminal penalties prescribed for human trafficking offenses with a maximum of at least four years' deprivation of liberty, or a more severe penalty;
- implementation of human trafficking laws through vigorous prosecution of the prevalent forms of trafficking in the country and sentencing of offenders;
- proactive victim identification measures with systematic procedures to guide law enforcement and other government-supported front-line responders in the process of victim identification;

- government funding and partnerships with NGOs to provide victims with access to primary health care, counseling, and shelter, allowing them to recount their trafficking experiences to trained social counselors and law enforcement in an environment of minimal pressure;
- victim protection efforts that include access to services and shelter without detention and with legal alternatives to removal to countries in which victims would face retribution or hardship;
- the extent to which a government ensures victims are provided with legal and other assistance and that, consistent with domestic law, proceedings are not prejudicial to victims' rights, dignity, or psychological well-being;
- the extent to which a government ensures the safe, humane, and—to the extent possible—voluntary repatriation and reintegration of victims; and
- governmental measures to prevent human trafficking, including efforts to curb practices identified as contributing factors to human trafficking, such as employers' confiscation of foreign workers' passports and allowing labor recruiters to charge prospective migrants excessive fees.

BURMA

Nakaji had to leave school at an early age to help his struggling family by taking a job in a factory. One day, a stranger offered him a better-paying job as a driver. Nakaji eagerly accepted, excited at the prospect of learning how to drive, and went with the man who, for $80, drugged and delivered him to the Tatmadaw, Burma's armed forces. Nakaji and six other boys, the eldest 17 years old, were sold to the army and moved to a base in the capital, where they lived under armed guard. Upon realizing what had happened, Nakaji's father, a retired sergeant, contacted the police but, according to Nakaji, they "wouldn't help until my father mentioned the International Labor Organization." Nakaji was released when he was 15 years old and now works on the docks.



In Afghanistan, opium-farming families sometimes sell their children to settle debts with opium traffickers, while other families use labor brokers to obtain employment for their children who then become trapped in forced labor.

Tier rankings and narratives are NOT affected by the following:

- efforts, however laudable, undertaken exclusively by non-governmental actors in the country;
- general public awareness events—government-sponsored or otherwise—lacking concrete ties to the prosecution of traffickers, protection of victims, or prevention of trafficking; and
- broad-based law enforcement or developmental initiatives.

A GUIDE TO THE TIERS

TIER 1

The governments of countries that fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

TIER 2

The governments of countries that do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

TIER 2 WATCH LIST

The government of countries that do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards, and for which:

a) the ***absolute number*** of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;

b) there is a failure to provide evidence of ***increasing efforts*** to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year, including increased investigations, prosecution, and convictions of trafficking crimes, increased assistance to victims, and decreasing evidence of complicity in severe forms of trafficking by government officials; or

c) the determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take ***additional steps over the next year***.

TIER 3

The governments of countries that do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

The TVPA lists additional factors to determine whether a country should be on Tier 2 (or Tier 2 Watch List) versus Tier 3. First, the extent to which the country is a country of origin, transit, or destination for severe forms of trafficking. Second, the extent to which the country's government does not comply with the TVPA's minimum standards and, in particular, the extent to which officials or government employees have been complicit in severe forms of trafficking. And third, reasonable measures that the government would need to undertake to be in compliance with the minimum standards in light of the government's resources and capabilities to address and eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

A 2008 amendment to the TVPA provides that any country that has been ranked Tier 2 Watch List for two consecutive years and that would otherwise be ranked Tier 2 Watch List for the next year will instead be ranked Tier 3 in that third year. The Secretary of State is authorized to waive the automatic downgrade based on credible evidence that a waiver is justified because the government has a written plan that, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts to comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is devoting sufficient resources to implement the plan. The Secretary can only issue this waiver for two

PHILIPPINES

A Palawan fisherman recruited Datu and 25 other men to work as fishermen on a neighboring island in the Philippines. The workers met with the recruiter twice before moving to the island, and they received money at each meeting that reaffirmed their belief that well-paying jobs awaited. At their new job, however, the men were not paid at all. Instead, their traffickers charged them P60,000 ($1,360) each for room and board. They forced the men to fish illegally and physically abused them if they did not catch enough fish. The men endured forced labor for two months before being released. Both the recruiter and fish trader face charges of human trafficking, and the owner of the boats remains at large.

consecutive years. After the third year, a country must either go up to Tier 2 or down to Tier 3. Governments subject to the automatic downgrade provision are noted as such in the country narratives.

FUNDING RESTRICTIONS FOR TIER 3 COUNTRIES

Pursuant to the TVPA, governments of countries on Tier 3 may be subject to certain restrictions on bilateral assistance, whereby the U.S. government may withhold or withdraw non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance. In addition, certain countries on Tier 3 may not receive funding for government employees' participation in educational and cultural exchange programs. Consistent with the TVPA, governments subject to restrictions would also face U.S. opposition to the provision of assistance (except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance) by international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Funding restrictions will take effect upon the beginning of the U.S. government's next Fiscal Year—October 1, 2015—however, all or part of the TVPA's restrictions can be waived if the President determines that the provision of such assistance to the government would promote the purposes of the TVPA or is otherwise in the United States' national interest. The TVPA also authorizes the President to waive funding restrictions if necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.

No tier ranking is permanent. Every country, including the United States, can do more. All countries must maintain and continually increase efforts to combat trafficking.

UKRAINE | UNITED STATES

Over a period of several years, five Ukrainian brothers fraudulently promised 70 Ukrainians well-paying janitorial jobs at retail stores in the United States. They further lured the workers with promises to pay for their room and board and all their travel expenses. Once the workers arrived in the United States, however, the traffickers exacted reimbursement for $10,000-$50,000 in travel debts, making them work 10 to 12 hours per day, seven days a week to repay the debt, almost never providing compensation. The brothers abused the workers physically, psychologically, and sexually, and threatened to hurt the workers' families if they disobeyed. The brothers brought many of the workers into the United States illegally through Mexico. Over time, several new recruits were detained at the border and other victims bravely came forward, exposing the trafficking ring. Four of the brothers were convicted on charges of human trafficking; one remains a fugitive and is thought to be in Ukraine.

GLOBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003 added to the original law a new requirement that foreign governments provide the Department of State with data on trafficking investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences in order to be considered in full compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking (Tier 1). The 2004 *TIP Report* collected this data for the first time. The 2007 *TIP Report* showed for the first time a breakout of the number of total prosecutions and convictions that related to labor trafficking, placed in parentheses.

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2007	5,682 (490)	3,427 (326)		28
2008	5,212 (312)	2,983 (104)	30,961	26
2009	5,606 (432)	4,166 (335)	49,105	33
2010	6,017 (607)	3,619 (237)	33,113	17
2011	7,909 (456)	3,969 (278)	42,291 (15,205)	15
2012	7,705 (1,153)	4,746 (518)	46,570 (17,368)	21
2013	9,460 (1,199)	5,776 (470)	44,758 (10,603)	58
2014	10,051 (418)	4,443 (216)	44,462 (11,438)	20

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governements and other sources.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT: MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, Div. A of Pub. L. No. 106-386, § 108, as amended.

(1) The government of the country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking.

(2) For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault.

(3) For the knowing commission of any act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense.

(4) The government of the country should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

INDICIA OF "SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED EFFORTS"

(1) Whether the government of the country vigorously investigates and prosecutes acts of severe forms of trafficking in persons, and convicts and sentences persons responsible for such acts, that take place wholly or partly within the territory of the country, including, as appropriate, requiring incarceration of individuals convicted of such acts. For purposes of the preceding sentence, suspended or significantly reduced sentences for convictions of principal actors in cases of severe forms of trafficking in persons shall be considered, on a case-by-case basis, whether to be considered as an indicator of serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. After reasonable requests from the Department of State for data regarding investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, a government which does not provide such data, consistent with the capacity of such government to obtain such data, shall be presumed not to have vigorously investigated, prosecuted, convicted, or sentenced such acts. During the periods prior to the annual report submitted on June 1, 2004, and on June 1, 2005, and the periods afterwards until September 30 of each such year, the Secretary of State may disregard the presumption contained in the preceding sentence if the government has provided some data to the Department of State regarding such acts and the Secretary has determined that the government is making a good faith effort to collect such data.

(2) Whether the government of the country protects victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons and encourages their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of such trafficking, including provisions for legal alternatives to their removal to countries in which they would face retribution or hardship, and ensures that victims are not inappropriately incarcerated, fined, or otherwise penalized solely for unlawful acts as a direct result of being trafficked, including by providing training to law enforcement and immigration officials regarding the identification and treatment of trafficking victims using approaches that focus on the needs of the victims.

(3) Whether the government of the country has adopted measures to prevent severe forms of trafficking in persons, such as measures to inform and educate the public, including potential victims, about the causes and consequences of severe forms of trafficking in persons, measures to establish the identity of local populations, including birth registration, citizenship, and nationality, measures to ensure that its nationals who are deployed abroad as part of a diplomatic, peacekeeping, or other similar mission do not engage in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking in persons or exploit victims of such trafficking, a transparent system for remediating or punishing such public officials as a deterrent, measures to prevent the use of forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards, effective bilateral, multilateral, or regional information sharing and cooperation arrangements with other countries, and effective policies or laws regulating foreign labor recruiters and holding them civilly and criminally liable for fraudulent recruiting.

(4) Whether the government of the country cooperates with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of severe forms of trafficking in persons and has entered into bilateral, multilateral, or regional law enforcement cooperation and coordination arrangements with other countries.

(5) Whether the government of the country extradites persons charged with acts of severe forms of trafficking in persons on substantially the same terms and to substantially the same extent as persons charged with other serious crimes (or, to the extent such extradition would be inconsistent with the laws of such country or with international agreements to which the country is a party, whether the government is taking all appropriate measures to modify or replace such laws and treaties so as to permit such extradition).

(6) Whether the government of the country monitors immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of severe forms of trafficking in persons and whether law enforcement agencies of the country respond to any such evidence in a manner that is consistent with the vigorous investigation and prosecution of acts of such trafficking, as well as with the protection of human rights of victims and the internationally recognized human right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's own country.

(7) Whether the government of the country vigorously investigates, prosecutes, convicts, and sentences public officials, including diplomats and soldiers, who participate in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking in persons, including nationals of the country who are deployed abroad as part of a diplomatic, peacekeeping, or other similar mission who engage in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking in persons or exploit victims of such trafficking, and takes all appropriate measures against officials who condone such trafficking. A government's failure to appropriately address public allegations against such public officials, especially once such officials have returned to their home countries, shall be considered inaction under these criteria. After reasonable requests from the Department of State for data regarding such investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences, a government which does not provide such data consistent with its resources shall be presumed not to have vigorously investigated, prosecuted, convicted, or sentenced such acts. During the periods prior to the annual report submitted on June 1, 2004, and June 1, 2005, and the periods afterwards until September 30 of each such year, the Secretary of State may disregard the presumption contained in the preceding sentence if the government has provided some data to the Department of State regarding such acts and the Secretary has determined that the government is making a good faith effort to collect such data.

(8) Whether the percentage of victims of severe forms of trafficking in the country that are non-citizens of such countries is insignificant.

(9) Whether the government has entered into effective, transparent partnerships, cooperative arrangements, or agreements that have resulted in concrete and measurable outcomes with

(A) domestic civil society organizations, private sector entities, or international nongovernmental organizations, or into multilateral or regional arrangements or agreements, to assist the government's efforts to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and punish traffickers; or

(B) the United States toward agreed goals and objectives in the collective fight against trafficking.

(10) Whether the government of the country, consistent with the capacity of such government, systematically monitors its efforts to satisfy the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (8) and makes available publicly a periodic assessment of such efforts.

(11) Whether the government of the country achieves appreciable progress in eliminating severe forms of trafficking when compared to the assessment in the previous year.

(12) Whether the government of the country has made serious and sustained efforts to reduce the demand for

(A) commercial sex acts; and

(B) participation in international sex tourism by nationals of the country.

In 2014, the *L.A. Times* uncovered conditions indicative of human trafficking on Mexican tomato farms. Some employers illegally withheld workers' wages, and the exorbitant prices at onsite grocery stores caused many laborers to return home penniless after the season.

THE TIERS

TIER 1

Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards.

TIER 2

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

TIER 2 WATCH LIST

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards AND:

a) The **absolute number of victims** of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;

b) There is a **failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts** to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or

c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on **commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.**

TIER 3

Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

TIER PLACEMENTS

TIER 1

ARMENIA
AUSTRALIA
AUSTRIA
THE BAHAMAS
BELGIUM
CANADA
CHILE
CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK
FINLAND
FRANCE
GERMANY
ICELAND
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
KOREA, SOUTH
LUXEMBOURG
MACEDONIA
NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NORWAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
SLOVAKIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TAIWAN
UNITED KINGDOM
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TIER 2

AFGHANISTAN
ALBANIA
ANGOLA
ARGENTINA
ARUBA
AZERBAIJAN
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BENIN
BHUTAN
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
BRAZIL
BRUNEI
CABO VERDE
CAMEROON
CHAD
COLOMBIA
COTE D'IVOIRE
CROATIA
CURAÇAO
CYPRUS
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUADOR
EL SALVADOR
ESTONIA
ETHIOPIA
FIJI
GEORGIA
GUATEMALA
GREECE
HONDURAS
HONG KONG
HUNGARY
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAQ
JAPAN
JORDAN
KAZAKHSTAN
KENYA
KIRIBATI
KOSOVO
KYRGYZSTAN
LATVIA
LIBERIA
LITHUANIA
MACAU
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALTA
MEXICO
MICRONESIA
MOLDOVA
MONGOLIA
MONTENEGRO
MOROCCO
MOZAMBIQUE
NEPAL
NICARAGUA
NIGER
NIGERIA
OMAN
PALAU
PANAMA
PARAGUAY
PERU
PHILIPPINES
ROMANIA
RWANDA
ST. LUCIA
ST. MAARTEN
SENEGAL
SERBIA
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SLOVENIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SWAZILAND
TAJIKISTAN
TOGO
TONGA
TURKEY
UGANDA
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
URUGUAY
VIETNAM
ZAMBIA

TIER 2 WATCH LIST

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
BOLIVIA
BOTSWANA
BULGARIA
BURKINA FASO
BURMA
CAMBODIA
CHINA (PRC)
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REP. OF
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF
COSTA RICA
CUBA
DJIBOUTI
EGYPT
GABON
GHANA
GUINEA
GUYANA
HAITI
JAMAICA
LAOS
LEBANON
LESOTHO
MALAYSIA
MALDIVES
MALI
MAURITIUS
NAMIBIA
PAKISTAN
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
QATAR
SAUDI ARABIA
SRI LANKA
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
SOLOMON ISLANDS
SUDAN
SURINAME
TANZANIA
TIMOR-LESTE
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKMENISTAN
UKRAINE
UZBEKISTAN

TIER 3

ALGERIA
BELARUS*
BELIZE
BURUNDI
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
COMOROS*
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
THE GAMBIA
GUINEA-BISSAU
IRAN
KOREA, NORTH
KUWAIT
LIBYA
MARSHALL ISLANDS*
MAURITANIA
RUSSIA
SOUTH SUDAN
SYRIA
THAILAND
YEMEN
VENEZUELA
ZIMBABWE

SPECIAL CASE

SOMALIA

* *Auto downgrade from Tier 2 Watch List*

Boundary representation is not authoritative.

TIER PLACEMENTS

Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 2 Watch List | Tier 3 | Tier 3 (*Auto downgrade*) | Special Case

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2008	109 (18)	90 (20)	7,799	10
2009	325 (47)	117 (30)	10,861	8
2010	272 (168)	163 (113)	9,626	5
2011	340 (45)	217 (113)	8,900 (5,098)	2
2012	493 (273)	252 (177)	10,043 (6,544)	4
2013	572 (245)	341 (192)	10,096 (2,250)	7
2014	811 (49)	317 (33)	9,523 (1,308)	4

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governments and other sources.

EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Boundary representation is not authoritative.

TIER PLACEMENTS

Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 2 Watch List | Tier 3 | Tier 3 (*Auto downgrade*)

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2008	1,083 (106)	643 (35)	3,374	2
2009	357 (113)	256 (72)	5,238	3
2010	427 (53)	177 (9)	2,597	0
2011	2,127 (55)	978 (55)	8,454 (3,140)	4
2012	1,682 (115)	1,251 (103)	8,521 (1,804)	4
2013	2,460 (188)	1,271 (39)	7,886 (1,077)	3
2014	1,938 (88)	969 (16)	6,349 (1,084)	3

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governments and other sources.

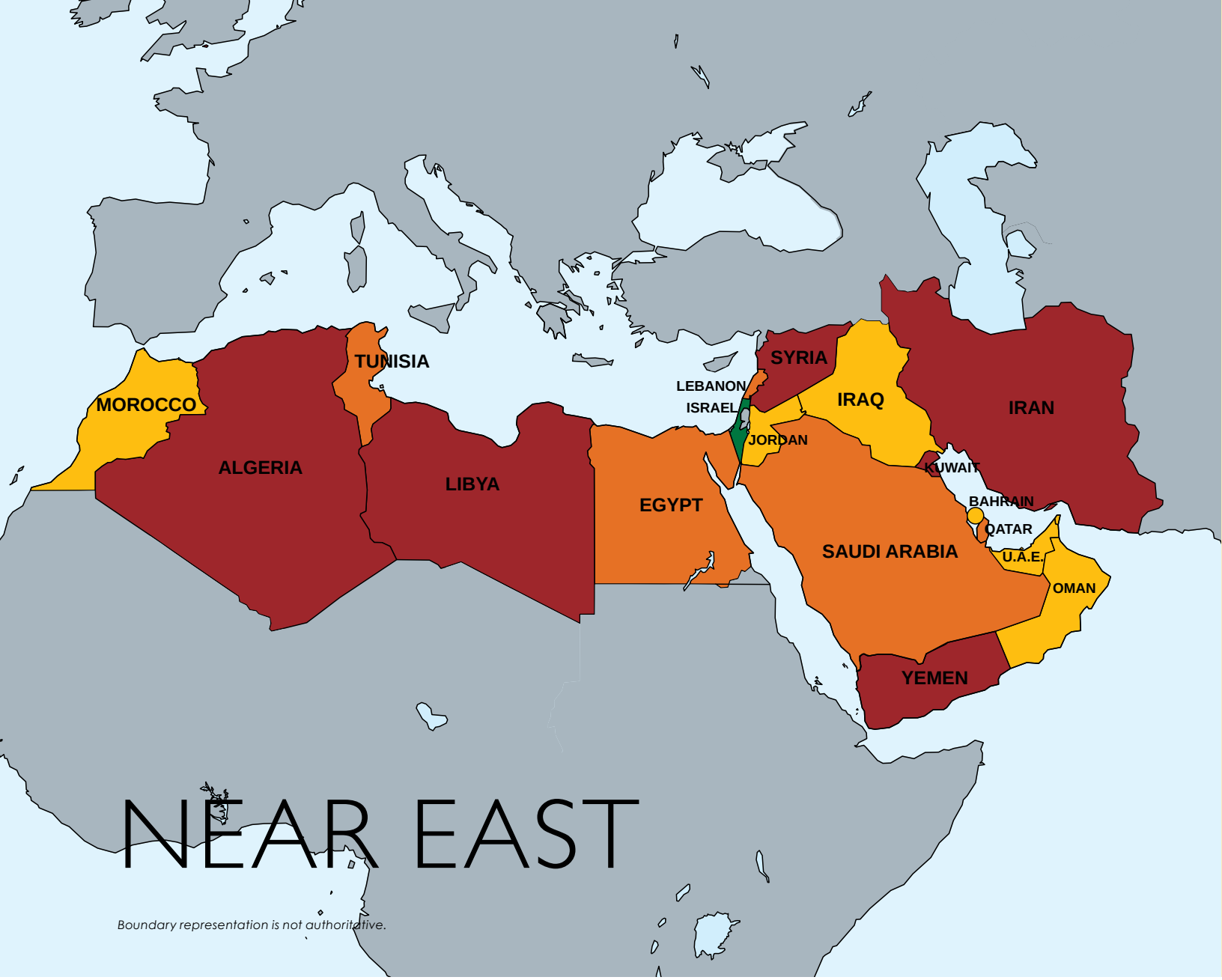
* ***Islands in the Caribbean Sea***—*although part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten are covered by the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.*

TIER PLACEMENTS

Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 2 Watch List | Tier 3 | Tier 3 (*Auto downgrade*)

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2008	2,808 (83)	1,721 (16)	8,981	1
2009	2,208 (160)	1,733 (149)	14,650	14
2010	2,803 (47)	1,850 (38)	8,548	4
2011	3,188 (298)	1,601 (81)	10,185 (1,796)	2
2012	3,161 (361)	1,818 (112)	11,905 (2,306)	3
2013	3,223 (275)	2,684 (127)	10,374 (1,863)	35
2014	4,199 (197)	1,585 (69)	11,910 (3,531)	5

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governments and other sources.

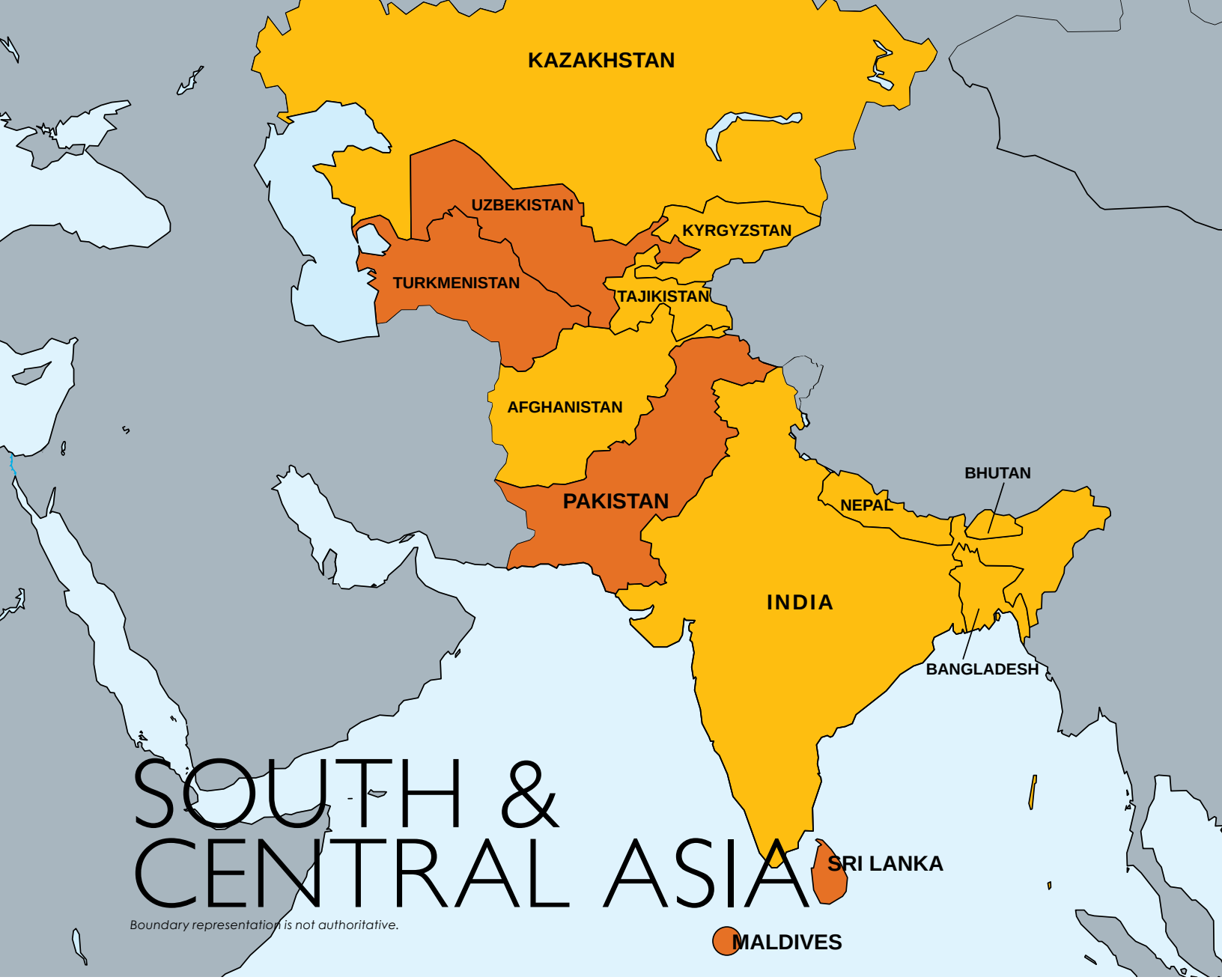


TIER PLACEMENTS

Tier 1 Tier 2 Tier 2 Watch List Tier 3

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2008	120 (56)	26 (2)	688	6
2009	80 (9)	57 (8)	1,011	6
2010	323 (63)	68 (10)	1,304	1
2011	209 (17)	60 (5)	1,831 (1,132)	2
2012	249 (29)	149 (15)	4,047 (1,063)	1
2013	119 (25)	60 (4)	1,460 (172)	4
2014	320 (5)	144 (25)	3,388 (2,460)	0

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governments and other sources.



SOUTH & CENTRAL ASIA

Boundary representation is not authoritative.

TIER PLACEMENTS

Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 2 Watch List | Tier 3 | Tier 3 (*Auto downgrade*)

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2008	644 (7)	342 (7)	3,510	2
2009	1,989 (56)	1,450 (10)	8,325	1
2010	1,460 (196)	1,068 (11)	4,357	1
2011	974 (24)	829 (11)	3,907 (1,089)	2
2012	1,043 (6)	874 (4)	4,415 (2,150)	1
2013	1,904 (259)	974 (58)	7,124 (1,290)	5
2014	1,839 (12)	958 (10)	4,878 (1,041)	3

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governments and other sources.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Boundary representation is not authoritative.

TIER PLACEMENTS

Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 2 Watch List | Tier 3

YEAR	PROSECUTIONS	CONVICTIONS	VICTIMS IDENTIFIED	NEW OR AMENDED LEGISLATION
2008	448 (42)	161 (24)	6,609	5
2009	647 (47)	553 (66)	9,020	1
2010	732 (80)	293 (65)	6,681	6
2011	624 (17)	279 (14)	9,014 (2,490)	3
2012	1,077 (369)	402 (107)	7,639 (3,501)	8
2013	1,182 (207)	446 (50)	7,818 (3,951)	4
2014	944 (67)	470 (63)	8,414 (2,014)	5

The above statistics are estimates only, given the lack of uniformity in national reporting structures. The numbers in parentheses are those of labor trafficking prosecutions, convictions, and victims identified. The number of victims identified includes information from foreign governments and other sources.

Traffickers in the Republic of the Congo force Congolese and Beninese children into market vending and domestic servitude.

HOW TO READ A COUNTRY NARRATIVE

This page shows a sample country narrative. The Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention sections of each country narrative describe how a government has or has not addressed the relevant TVPA minimum standards (see page 49), during the reporting period. This truncated narrative gives a few examples.

The country's tier ranking is based on the government's efforts against trafficking as measured by the TVPA minimum standards, in the context of its efforts in the preceding year(s).

COUNTRY X: Tier 2 Watch List

Profile of human trafficking in recent years.

Country X is a transit and destination country for men and women subjected to forced labor and, to a much lesser extent, forced prostitution. Men and women from South and Southeast Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East voluntarily travel to Country X as laborers and domestic servants, but some subsequently face conditions indicative of involuntary servitude. These conditions include threats of serious harm, including threats of legal action and deportation; withholding of pay; restrictions on freedom of movement, including the confiscation of passports and travel documents and physical, mental, and sexual abuse. In some cases, arriving migrant workers have found that the terms of employment in Country X are wholly different from those they agreed to in their home countries. Individuals employed as domestic servants are particularly vulnerable to trafficking since they are not covered under the provisio[illegible]ry. X is also a destination for women wh[illegible] in prostitution, but the extent to w[illegible] to forced prostitution is unknown.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(10) – whether the government shows evidence of overall increasing efforts.

Synopsis of government efforts.

The Government of Country X does no[illegible] the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Although the government has not yet enacted necessary anti-trafficking legislation, during the reporting period it reaffirmed its commitment to this goal over the next year. Despite these efforts, the government did not show evidence of overall progress in prosecuting and punishing trafficking offenders and identifying victims of trafficking; therefore, Country X is placed on Tier 2 Watch List.

Guidance on how the government can enhance its efforts and obtain a better tier ranking.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTRY X:

Enact the draft comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation; significantly increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, and convict and punish trafficking offend[illegible]tently apply formal procedures to ide[illegible]g vulnerable groups, such as those or prostitution; and collect, di[illegible] counter-trafficking law enforce[illegible]

TVPA Minimum Standards 1-3 – whether the government prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes adequate criminal punishments.

Summary of the country's laws and the government's law enforcement efforts against human trafficking.

PROSECUTION

The Government of Country X made minimal efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses during the reporting period. Country X does not prohibit all acts of trafficking, but it criminalizes slavery under Section 321 and forced labor under Section 322 of its criminal law. The prescribed penalty for forced labor—up to six months' imprisonment—is not sufficiently stringent. Article 297 prohibits forced or coerced prostitution, and the prostitution of a child below age 15 even if there was no compulsion or redress; the prescribed penalty is up to 15 years' imprisonment, which is commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. Draft revisions to the penal code have not yet been enacted. An unconfirmed report indicates that four traffickers were charged with fraudulently issuing visas to workers who they then exploited. Two were reportedly deported, and two were reportedly convicted. The government did not confirm nor deny the existence of this case. The government did not report any investigations, prosecutions, convictions, or sentences for trafficking complicity of public officials.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(1) – whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes trafficking offenses and convicts and punishes trafficking offenders and provides data on these actions.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(7) – whether the government has made adequate efforts to address the involvement in or facilitation of human trafficking by government employees.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(2) – whether the government adequately protects victims of trafficking by identifying them and ensuring they have access to necessary services.

Summary of the government's efforts to ensure that trafficking victims are identified and provided adequate protection.

PROTECTION

Country X made minimal progress in protecting victims of traf[illegible] during the reporting period. Although health care facilities reportedly refer suspected abuse cases to the government anti-trafficking shelter for investigation, the government continues to lack a systematic procedure for law enforcement to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable populations, such as foreign workers awaiting deportation and women arrested for prostitution; as a result, victims may be punished and automatically deported without being identified as victims or offered protection. The government reported that the Ministry of the Interior has a process by which it refers victims to the trafficking shelter; however, this process is underutilized in practice. The trafficking shelter assisted 24 individuals during the reporting period and provided them with a wide range of services, including full medical treatment and legal and job assistance. Country X commonly fines and detains potential trafficking victims for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being subjected to trafficking, such as immigration violations and running away from their sponsors, without determining whether the individuals are victims of trafficking.

Country X sometimes offers temporary relief from deportation so that victims can testify as witnesses against their employers. However, victims were generally not permitted to leave the country if there is a pending case. The government did not routinely encourage victims to assist in trafficking investigations or consistently offer victims alternatives to removal to countries where they may face retribution or hardship.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(3) – whether the government is making adequate efforts to prevent human trafficking, including measures to ensure its diplomats or peacekeepers assigned abroad do not engage in trafficking.

Summary of the government's efforts to prevent human trafficking.

PREVENTION

Country X made modest progress in preventing trafficking [illegible] during the reporting period. While the government apparent effort to amend provisions of Country X's sp[illegible] law to help prevent the forced labor of migrant worke[illegible] government did start to enforce other parts of the law to benefit of migrant workers. One provision in the sponsorship law continues to require foreign workers to request exit permits from their sponsors in order to leave Country X. Although this may increase migrant workers' vulnerability to forced labor, the law created a new process through which a laborer who was not granted an exit permit due to a sponsor's refusal or other circumstances can seek one by other means. The Ministry of Labor sponsored media campaigns and organized informational workshops for officials, NGOs, and labor recruitment agencies. However, the government did not provide anti-trafficking training or guidance for its diplomatic personnel during the reporting period. The government has a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons, but did not publicly disseminate the plan or take steps to implement it during the reporting period. The government did not take any public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex acts in Country X, but the government convicted two of its nationals for soliciting children for sex in other countries and sentenced them to 10 years' imprisonment.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(11) – whether the government has made efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts, and, if applicable, participation in international sex tourism by its nationals.

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raising awareness of human trafficking

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