Understand the Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report

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Background on the TVPA

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and the Palermo Protocol describe Human Trafficking using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, and forced labor. Their annual report places country tiers that identify the extent of their government action to combat trafficking.

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

The TIP Report:

- Came about as a measure to decrease human trafficking
- The United States monitors how other states are doing in preventing Human Trafficking
- Set up to protect human rights
- Seeks not only to protect, but to also rebuild lives
- Encourages other countries to adopt victim-friendly laws and regulations
- Advocates for victims
- Appreciates and encourages Fair Trade products
- Seeks to clarify misconceptions of Human Trafficking: such as, the difference between trafficked victims and illegal immigrants
- End goal: To end modern day slavery

Tier 1 Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards:

- It does not mean that a country has no trafficking problem
- 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.

United States of America: Tier 1

I. Background

- The United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children—both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals—subjected to forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and sex trafficking, respectively.
- Trafficking in persons occurs in many licit and illicit markets, including: brothels, massage parlors, street prostitution, hotel services, hospitality, agriculture, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, health and elder care, and domestic service, among others.

II. Prosecution

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and subsequent reauthorizations have refined the U.S. government’s response to trafficking.
- U.S. criminal law also prohibits conspiracy and attempts to violate these provisions, as well as obstructing enforcement of these provisions.
- Sex trafficking prosecutions involving minors do not require a demonstration of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

III. Absence of Prosecution

- Continued efforts to increase victim identification and service provision to identified victims, although state and federal funding for victim services is insufficient.
- Supported foreign national and U.S. citizen victims during trafficking investigations and prosecutions by increasing the number of victim assistance coordinators assigned to field offices to assist victims complicating the trafficking investigations and prosecutions.
- The TVPA authorizes DHS to provide two principal types of immigration relief to foreign trafficking victims:
  - T-nonimmigrant status was granted to 557 victims and 722 immediate family members of victims, representing a significant increase from 447 and 349, respectively, in the previous period.

IV. Prevention

- The cabinet-level President’s Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons continued coordinated federal efforts to combat trafficking in persons, supported by the Senior Policy Operating Group.
- DOL carried out civil law worksite enforcement and its field investigators are often the first government authorities to detect exploitative labor.
- The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which investigates discrimination charges among employees, has witnessed an increase in trafficking issues in FY 2011.
- USAID launched a new Counter/Trafficking in Persons in February 2012 that outlines concrete, measurable principles, and objectives to focus USAID’s anti-trafficking efforts.

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.

Revised: Tier 2

I. Background

- Source country for trafficking, but to a lesser extent is also a transit and destination country, especially for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.
- Girls, and lesser extent, boys are exploited in domestic service.
- Loosely organized prostitution networks, supplied by vulnerable girls who are often offered room and board by older females.

II. Prosecution

- Failed to convict any traffickers
- Article 28 of the Law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-Based Violence outlines, but does not define sex trafficking as 15–20 years. Prison
- Forced Labor: 3 to 5 years in prison
- Child slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, forced labor, prostitution: 8 months–20 years.
- In May 2010, government completed draft penal code which should help with the current difficulty in prosecuting and punishing suspected traffickers.
- 2011, Rwandan National Police reported 11 cases of human trafficking, which were pending at the end of last reporting period, received no further information of prosecuting these cases.

III. Protection

- Compared to neighboring African countries, Rwandan government continues to provide an unmatched level of care for former child soldiers.
- Rwanda also operates the Inzere Center, hospital that provides medical exams, counseling, short-term shelter, and assistance to victims of sex trafficking, child domestic slaves, and child prostitution.

IV. Prevention

- Government has continued its anti-trafficking awareness and prevention efforts during the last reporting period.
- In 2011, Rwandan officials, for the first time, acknowledged the problem of internal sex trafficking and forced labor, specifically child domestic servants.
- Regular training sessions for employers were also established in order to inform on child labor regulations.
- Rwanda continues to train immigration officials on document verification and other details including identifying victims of trafficking.

Background on Haiti

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