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HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN SLAVERY IN INDIA

This report dwells upon the increase and continuing violation of the rights of million people in India, who are trapped in debt bondage and forced to work in order to repay loans. Their designation as people belonging outside the Hindu caste system is a major determining factor of their enslavement. Statistics from this country shows that the vast majority (80%-98%) of bonded laborers are from communities designated as “untouchable”, to whom certain occupations are assigned, or from indigenous communities. Because

of the fact that caste status is inherited, debts are passed on to the succeeding generations.

Generally, India is considered to be a transit country for human trafficking with the purpose of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. Also India is a country that supplies the world with such «free labor». Internal forced labor may constitute India's largest trafficking problem; men, women, and children in debt bondage are forced to work in industries such as brick kilns, rice mills, agricultural and embroidery factories. Although, no comprehensive review of forced and bonded labor has been carried out, some NGOs estimate that this problem affects ten million Indians. People from India's most disadvantaged social economic strata are particularly vulnerable to forced or bonded labor and sex trafficking. Women and girls are trafficked within the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Children are also subjected to forced labor as factory workers, domestic servants, beggars, and agricultural workers.

There are a lot of samples of such rude behavior. I'd like to draw your attention on some of them. First example is very brutal and cruel. A girl was taken away from her village in Meghalaya to a brothel in Delhi. The worst thing is that her own parents sent her to that place in order to get some money and to be able to feed all their family.

Second example is about a boy «thrown into the hands» of foreign tourists, who were pedophiles, in Goa. Later he escaped from starvation and poverty at home, and brick-kiln owner will employ him and give a part -time job and wage.

Human trafficking is such a tricky crime in developing countries and has its own areas of darkness. In Haryana, for instance, where it is acceptable to destroy female fetuses and kill baby girls, young women are trafficked from Bengal and the Northeast and forced into marriage to keep the family line going. How does one, in the absence of a complaint from the girl or her family, initiate criminal proceedings against those who claim the girl as their daughter-in-law?

In India, human trafficking with the aim of commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, forced marriages and domestic servitude is considered to be an organized crime.

Shri R.P.N.Singh, India's Minister of Internal Affairs, launched a governmental website, the Anti Human Trafficking Portal, on 20 February 2014. The official statement explained that the objective of the online resource is for the "sharing of information across all stakeholders, States/UTs[Union Territories] and public organizations for effective implementation of Anti Human Trafficking measures.

The key aims of the website are:

- to give aid in the tracking of cases with inter-state ramifications.
- provide comprehensive information on legislation, statistics, court judgements, United Nations Conventions, details of trafficked people and traffickers and share successful stories.
- provide connection to "Trackchild", the National Portal on Missing Children that operates in many states.

Also on 20 February, the Indian government announced the implementation of a Comprehensive Scheme that involves the establishment of Integrated Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in 335 vulnerable police districts throughout India. This programme includes training for police, prosecutors and judiciary. After the announcement, 225 Integrated AHTUs were prepared and ready to start their job, while 100 more AHTUs were proposed for the forthcoming financial year.

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