

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

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Action

July 2013 Vol. 11 No. 7

This issue highlights excerpts from the 2013 TIP Report, with emphasis on issues affecting victims.

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- Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Amer. Prov.
- Society of Jesus, CA Prov.
- Society of the Sacred Heart, St. Louis, MO
- Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union USA

U.S. State Dept. Trafficking in Persons 'TIP' Report 2013



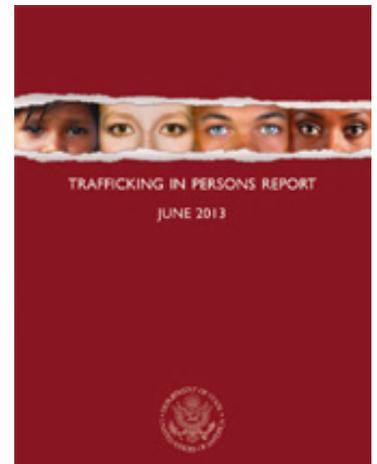
U.S. Sec. of State John Kerry spoke on June 19, 2013 — the occasion of the release

of the 2013 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. He said, “When we help countries to prosecute traffickers, we are strengthening the rule of law. When we bring victims out of exploitation, we are helping to create more stable and productive communities. When we stop this crime from happening in the first place, we are preventing the abuse of those who are victimized as well as the ripple effect that causes damage throughout communities into our broader environment and which corrupts our global supply chains.”

“Governments bear primary responsibility for responding to this crime, and this annual Report is the gold standard in assessing how well governments— including our own—are meeting that responsibility. This year, 188 coun-

tries and territories are included, and we have taken a hard look at one of the biggest problems we face in combating modern slavery: the challenge of accurate, effective victim identification.”

“We all have an interest in stopping this crime. As Secretary of State, I will continue to make the fight against modern-day slavery a priority for this Department and for the country. I am committed to making sure that survivors’ voices continue to be heard.” (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2013/06/210911.htm>)



Global Law Enforcement Data

Data began to be collected in 2004. In 2007 labor trafficking statistics were recorded separately (parentheses). For the complete set of statistics see TIP pg. 46. (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/210757.htm>)

Year	Prosecutions	Convictions	Victims Identified	New/ Amended Legislation
2011	7,206 (508)	4,239 (320)	41,210	15
2012	7,705 (1,153)	4,746 (518)	46,570	21



Awareness

What Slaves Suffer

Uzbekistan to Russia

Ayauly and Bibihul were among 12 migrants from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, including three children, who were held captive for 10 years in a supermarket after being promised employment in Russia. They were beaten and forced to work without pay by the couple who owned the Russian supermarket. Their passports were confiscated by their traffickers who said they needed the documents to officially register them as workers with authorities. The passports were never returned.

Side by side with 10 others, Ayauly and Bibihul lifted heavy goods in and out of the shop daily. The couple used threats of violence, beatings, and sexual violence to demand subservience. Based on a tip from Ayauly's mother, two Russian civic activists rescued Ayauly and Bibihul as well the other workers found at the supermarket.

While a criminal investigation was opened it was closed shortly thereafter. Prosecutors claimed there was no evidence of a crime. Ayauly and Bibihul are now facing deportation for residing in Russia illegally. (TIP, pg. 42)

Philippines to Qatar

Dalisy signed a contract with an employment agency in the Philippines to work as a housemaid in Qatar for \$400 a month, plus room and board. But when she arrived, her employer said he would pay her only \$250 a month. She knew her family back in the Philippines depended on her earnings and felt she had no choice but to stay to help her family.

Philippines cont. on pg. 3

Thailand

Tola, now a Thai survivor, was seven years old when she was lured away from her parents by a couple who owned the field her family worked. While enslaved, she was forced to take care of cats and dogs for the couple's pet grooming shop.

For five years, Tola's parents hoped to see her again, never knowing how she disappeared or where she might be. They never imagined that Tola was close, enduring torture and abuse. If Tola did not do her job properly, she was kicked, slapped, and beaten with a broom. Sometimes the couple locked her in a cage and poured boiling hot water over her. On one occasion, the traffickers cut off her ear lobe with a pair of scissors. One day, she climbed a concrete fence of the house while chasing a cat and realized she was free.

A neighbor called the police and she was taken to a nearby shelter where her mother identified her. Injuries on Tola's arms affected her muscles; she can no longer move her left arm. Yet she is safe with her family and has begun her mental, emotional, and physical journey to recovery.

The couple was arrested and charged with torture, detaining a person against her will, enslavement, and kidnapping. The couple posted bail and escaped. (TIP, pg. 18)



Police allow news media to witness Tola's injuries. (TIP, pg. 18)

Such images [of abuse] provoke. They demand that we confront what happens in secret; to ask the hard questions about whether we are condoning, contributing, accepting. These images horrify and anger and compel. And they hopefully trigger action. (TIP, pg. 418)

United States

For over 20 years, the owners and staff of a turkey-processing plant subjected 32 intellectually disabled men to severe verbal and physical abuse. The company housed the workers in a "bunkhouse" with inadequate heating, dirty mattresses, and a roof in such disrepair that buckets were put out to catch rainwater. The infestation of insects was so serious the men swatted cockroaches away as they ate.

The men were as productive as other workers. Yet the company paid them only \$15 a week (41 cents an hour) for labor that legally should have been compensated at \$11-12 an hour. Employers hit, kicked, and generally subjected the men to abuse, forcing some of the men to carry heavy weights as punishment and in at least one case handcuffed a man to a bed. Supervisors ignored complaints of injuries or pain, denied the men recreation, cellphones, and health care.

The U.S. government filed an abuse and discrimination case against the company for damages under the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. During the trial, the attorney representing the men said: "The evidence is these men were treated like property...these men are people. They are individuals." A jury awarded the men a total of approximately \$3,000,000, the largest jury verdict in the history of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. (TIP, pg. 34)



Awareness

Philippines *cont. from pg. 2*

She quickly realized that her low pay was not the only unexpected condition of her work situation. She was fed one meal a day, leftovers from the family's lunch: "*If no leftovers, I didn't eat.*" She worked seven days a week. When she was finished working in her employer's house, she was forced to clean his mother-in-law's house, and then his sister's without any additional pay. After eight months, Dalisay tried to leave but her boss just laughed and said "*You can't quit.*"

As a domestic worker not covered under the labor law, Dalisay was subject only to the restrictive *kafala*, or sponsorship system, meaning that she could not resign without her employer's permission, change jobs, leave the country, get a driver's license, or open a checking account without the permission of her employer. She also learned that her employer could withdraw sponsorship at any time and send her back home, so she fled and joined 56 other women who sought shelter at the *Philippines Overseas Labor Office*. (TIP, pg. 29)

Men & Boy Victims

The 2013 TIP Report documents male forced labor victims -- identified in a variety of countries and sectors: Central Asian men exploited in forced labor in Russia; West African boys forced to beg for corrupt religious teachers in Koranic schools; boys in forced labor in illegal drug production and transportation in the United Kingdom and Mexico. In South Asia, entire families are enslaved in debt bondage in agriculture, brick kilns, rice mills, and stone quarries. In South America and Africa, male victims of trafficking

are exploited in agriculture, construction, mining and logging, among other industries. The forced labor of men and boys from Burma, and Cambodia on Asian fishing vessels has been the topic of increased press coverage.

The sex trafficking of boys is often hidden, reflecting cultural taboos in many parts of the world. In Afghanistan and coastal Sri Lanka, boys are more likely than girls to be subjected to prostitution. In Mexico and Central America, boy migrants are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation en route to the U.S.; boys in Southeast Asia are exploited in prostitution; to a lesser extent, men are victims of sex trafficking; in recent years, Brazilian men were identified in forced prostitution in Spain and men were identified as sex trafficking victims in the U.S.

When male victims are not identified, they risk being treated as irregular migrants instead of exploited individuals and are vulnerable to deportation or being charged with crimes committed as a result of being trafficked, such as visa violations. Cases involving male victims are often dismissed as labor infractions instead of investigated as criminal cases. (TIP, pg. 35)



"People want their food to be cheap. Without a fair price will there ever be fair working conditions?" "Lowest on the Foodchain" Photo: Kay Chernush © ArtWorks for Freedom

Failure to Help Victims

Even when trafficking victims are able to escape and seek help, some governments punish victims or condition care on the high burdens of proof that should apply to defendants rather than victims.

Case after case has emerged in which government officials come in contact with a trafficking victim and fail to recognize the characteristics of the crime. Officials often fail to recognize male victims of forced labor, even when they describe the severe exploitation they endured, because the officials assume trafficking only happens to women.

Labor inspectors or immigration officers sometimes are confronted with indicators of human trafficking but fail to recognize the indicators as such or don't see trafficking as falling under their authority. Maritime officials focus on whether the condition of a fishing vessel and its equipment complies with environmental or safety regulations and miss the gross abuses inflicted on the crew.

Vice squads and judges may see people in commercial sex as irredeemable and fail to look beneath the surface or acknowledge their suffering.

Agencies other than law enforcement also play an important role in identifying human trafficking. Officials working on immigration, labor, social welfare, health, education, maritime, and other issues may come into contact with victims in the course of their work, but might not recognize them as trafficking victims because of inadequate victim identification procedures.

Training Is Essential

Each relevant agency should therefore assess its mission to see where victims might be encountered, and adopt appropriate protocols and procedures designed to deal with such a situation. While trafficking

Failure cont. on pg. 4



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Failure *cont. from pg. 3*

can occur in any number of areas, screening protocols generally are designed, at a minimum, to address populations especially vulnerable to trafficking, such as irregular migrants, asylum seekers, and deportees. Other areas in which traffickers have long operated include manufacturing, agriculture and fishing, as well as the commercial sex trade.

Adequate training is critical in other fields too. Because children and adolescents who are enrolled in school may be victims of sex trafficking or forced labor, teachers, school counselors, and administrators also need anti-trafficking training.

Social workers and counselors also need to be informed, because children who have been abused at home, have run away, are alcohol- or drug-dependent, or are in the care of child-welfare agencies are at high risk for human trafficking.

Traffickers will bring their victims to health-care facilities for a variety of problems, including sexually transmitted diseases, injuries, respiratory, or other systemic illnesses. In these cases, traffickers often exert control over the victim and the situation by speaking directly to the health-care provider, completing the paperwork, and hovering close to the victim during treatment. Doctors, nurses, and technicians need training and protocols to recognize and act in the best interest of the victim. (TIP, pg. 10, 12-13)

“The success of victim identification will often depend on whom that trafficking victim first encounters — whether a police officer, immigration agent, or labor inspector.” (TIP, pg. 9)

Addressing ‘Demand’ for Commercial Sex

Government Policies:

Zero-tolerance policies for employees, uniformed service members, and contractors paying for sex—even if legal in the country where these individuals work—and commensurate training for such individuals can help raise awareness regarding the subtle and brutal nature of sex trafficking and how individuals subjected to this crime are victimized through coercion. Moreover, by implementing these policies in procurement activities, governments can have an impact on a wide range of private-sector actors as well.

Cultural Leadership:

Rejecting long-held notions such as *“boys will be boys”* and sending the clear message that buying sex is wrong is not just a task for governments, but will require partnerships throughout society, including the faith and business communities. Business leaders can adopt codes of conduct that prohibit purchasing sex. And leaders in civil society—from teachers to parents to ministers—must foster the belief that it is everyone’s responsibility to do his/her part to reduce the demand for commercial sex. It is especially important to reach young men with a strong message of demand reduction to help them understand the exploitation that permeates the commercial sex trade.

It is every person’s individual responsibility to think about how his/her actions may contribute to human trafficking. Laws and policies, partnerships and activism will continue to be critical to this struggle, but it will also be the day-to-day decisions of individual men and women to reject exploitation that will bring an end to modern slavery. (TIP, pg. 27)

Taiwan Developed Effective Screening

Systematic screening and information sessions in countries of origin and screening upon arrival in destination countries, upon return home, or both, can help identify migrant victims of trafficking.

A robust example of proactive systematic screening in Taiwan, where screening is done at airports, encourages workers to complete an online survey to identify potential labor trafficking, labor abuse, or withheld wages. Additionally, assistance is offered when potential victims are identified through the survey.

Foreign workers are also screened at detention centers for indicators of trafficking. If individuals are identified as potential trafficking victims, they are offered services in a shelter and a day-long reflection period to decide whether they want to come forward as a trafficking victim. If they do self-identify and are confirmed by Taiwan authorities as victims, they remain at the shelter and receive comprehensive services, including help obtaining employment outside of the shelter and long-term immigration status.

This combination of screening, follow-up, and victim care that allows work and freedom of movement is a best practice worthy of adoption in other jurisdictions. (TIP, pg. 13)



Awareness

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Misperceptions Are Missed Opportunities

Dispelling misperceptions about human trafficking is imperative to proactively identify victims and to counter the isolation on which traffickers rely to keep people in servitude.

“Trafficking doesn’t happen here.” Approaching human trafficking as a crime that occurs only in far off places ignores situations of forced labor or sex trafficking that may be happening closer to home. Human trafficking is not a problem that involves only foreigners or migrants, but one faced in nearly every corner of the world involving citizens who may be exploited without ever leaving their hometown.

“She’s a criminal.” Many victims of trafficking first come to the attention of authorities due to an arrest for immigration violations, prostitution, or petty theft. Screening vulnerable populations—even if first encountered as potential defendants—for signs of force, fraud, or coercion used against them is imperative to identify human trafficking properly, to ensure that victims are not punished for acts committed as a result of being subjected to trafficking, and to effectively prevent victims from being returned to an exploitive situation.

“It’s cultural.” Holding a person in servitude is not a cultural practice; it is a crime. Some victims are subjected to trafficking by members of their own family or ethnic group. Misperceptions that this is a shared value among an ethnic group ignore the methods of force and coercion used by individual traffickers. It creates a zone of impunity in an ethnic community, with the result that victims in that group will never see their abusers brought to justice. These prejudices fail to reduce victims’ vulnerability to exploitation and often obscure the true demographics of who is subjected to certain types of trafficking.

“He agreed to do this.” Whether or not a person agreed to a certain type of employment, to migrate for a better job, or to work off a debt is irrelevant once that person’s free will has been compromised. A person who faces threats or harm should they choose to change their employment is in a situation of servitude. Often, traffickers use the initial consent of victims to stigmatize them for their choice, telling victims they will be deported, arrested, or ostracized if they seek help.

“She’s free to come and go.” Popular images of human trafficking include dramatic kidnappings and people held under lock and key. More common, but less visible, methods of control include psychological coercion, debt bondage, withholding of documents and wages, and

threats of harm. As in domestic abuse cases, observing a person out in public or taking public transportation does not mean that she is free from the effective control of her trafficker.

“He didn’t complain.” The duty to identify human trafficking must not be left solely to those in servitude. A victim has valid reasons for not accusing his exploiters of trafficking. He may fear physical or financial harm, shame, or repercussions for his family. He may assess that the assistance he could access from coming forward does not offer the needed protection to merit taking this risk. He may be unaware of his rights, or lack trust in authorities to enforce those rights.

“Trafficking doesn’t happen where prostitution is legal.” The occurrence of trafficking exists whether prostitution is legal, illegal, or decriminalized. It is the obligation of every government, regardless of the legal status of prostitution, to look closely for victims of trafficking and to ensure their protection.

“There’s nothing I can do about it.” Everyone can learn the signs of human trafficking and take action to alert authorities of possible crimes as appropriate. Citizens can learn about organizations that assist victims of trafficking in their hometowns and how to safely refer potential victims for help. They can spread awareness of, and dispel common misperceptions about, human trafficking.

(TIP, pg. 30)

Role of the Public

When the public is aware of the indicators of human trafficking and if they see such indicators know whom to contact, victims can more readily be identified and helped. Countless survivors in many countries have been discovered because an interested person recognized their circumstances and contacted authorities.

This person can be a neighbor, a school official, or a store owner. And as unsettling as it may be, sex trafficking victims have been helped to leave brothels and strip clubs because a client saw an anti-trafficking message and decided to do the right thing. Public awareness can help break the information monopoly that helps traffickers keep their victims isolated and enslaved. (TIP, pg. 18)



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TIP Report Tier Placement

Tier 1 Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards. Legend: (n) new country in ranking as of 2013; (+/-) indicates the number of tiers a country moved up (+)/down (-) since 2012; (s) special case. Countries which continue to violate the Child Soldier Protection Act (CSPA) are indicated by ‡

Armenia (+) Australia Austria Belgium Canada Colombia	Czech Republic Denmark Finland France Germany Iceland	Ireland Israel Italy Korea, South Luxembourg Macedonia	Netherlands New Zealand Nicaragua Norway Poland Slovak Republic	Slovenia Spain Sweden Taiwan United Kingdom USA
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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.

Antigua & Barbuda Argentina Aruba Azerbaijan (+) the Bahamas (+) Bangladesh Belize Benin Bhutan (n) Bolivia Bosnia & Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Brunei Bulgaria Burkina Faso Cameroon Cape Verde Chile	Congo (ROC) (+) Costa Rica Cote d'Ivoire Croatia (-) Curacao Cyprus (+) Dominican Republic Ecuador (+) Egypt El Salvador Estonia Ethiopia Fiji Gabon Georgia (-) Ghana Greece Guatemala Hong Kong	Hungary India Indonesia Iraq (+) Jamaica (+) Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kiribati Kosovo Kyrgyz Republic Laos Latvia Lithuania (-) Macau (+) Malawi (+) Malta Mauritius (-) Mexico	Moldova Mongolia Montenegro Mozambique Nepal Niger (+) Nigeria Oman Pakistan Palau Panama Paraguay Peru Philippines Portugal Qatar Romania Senegal (+) Serbia	Sierra Leone (+) Singapore South Africa St. Maarten (n) St. Vincent & the Gren Swaziland Switzerland Tajikistan Timor-Leste Togo Tonga Turkey Uganda United Arab Emirates Vietnam Zambia
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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.

Afghanistan Albania (-) Angola Bahrain Barbados Belarus Burma ‡ Burundi Cambodia (-)	Chad ‡ Comoros Djibouti Guyana (-) Haiti Honduras (-) Kenya Lebanon Lesotho (-)	Liberia Madagascar (+) Malaysia Maldives Mali (-) Marshall Islands (-) Micronesia Morocco (-) Namibia	Rwanda (-) ‡ Seychelles Solomon Islands (-) South Sudan Sri Lanka (-) St. Lucia (-) Suriname Tanzania (-)	Thailand The Gambia Trinidad & Tobago (-) Tunisia (-) Turkmenistan Ukraine (-) Uruguay (-) Venezuela
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Tier 3 Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, nor make significant efforts to do so.

Algeria Cent. African Rep. ‡ China (PRC) (-) Congo (DRC) ‡ Cuba	Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Guinea-Bissau (-) Iran Korea, North	Kuwait Libya Mauritania (-) Papua New Guinea	Russia (-) Saudi Arabia Sudan ‡ Syria ‡	Uzbekistan (-) Yemen ‡ Zimbabwe Somalia (s) ‡
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Advocacy

2013 'TIP' Heroes

Laura Anyola Tufon Cameroon

In her 10 years as the Northwest Regional Coordinator of the *Justice and Peace Commission*, Laura Anyola Tufon has been relentless in her commitment to fight child trafficking and forced labor in Cameroon. Despite a challenging environment where poverty, culture, and tradition converge to create vulnerabilities that facilitate trafficking in persons, Ms. Anyola is directly involved in the identification of, and delivery of assistance to, victims of human trafficking. In 2012, she identified 80 trafficking victims, and provided assistance to over 100 such individuals.

Ms. Anyola's leadership has transformed her organization into a model for Central Africa. In 2009, the *Justice and Peace Commission* created the first community-based protection system in Cameroon to identify at-risk children and to protect victims from being re-trafficked. Additionally, Ms. Anyola has worked within the appropriate legal systems to compel traffickers to compensate survivors and their families, leading to nearly 300 victims and their families receiving reintegration assistance and education.



Katrin Gluic Croatia

Katrin Gluic has spearheaded Croatian Police efforts to combat human trafficking since January 2010. She is frequently identified as a driving force for creating necessary changes on anti-trafficking efforts, including those related to Croatia's EU accession.

As a chief police inspector within the *National Police Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime* (PNUSKOK), Ms. Gluic coordinates trafficking investigations in Croatia. She oversees initial assistance to victims as a leader of Croatia's highly effective and innovative mobile teams, which she helped to create. These teams consist of specialized government, Red Cross, and NGO personnel, and rapidly deploy in order to handle initial care and placement of victims in suspected trafficking cases. She also designed and executed an extensive anti-trafficking training program involving several branches of the *Ministry of Interior*, including the border police, police academy, and virtually all police precincts.

Ms. Gluic has been pivotal in Croatia's international cooperation in the fight against trafficking. In 2012, she coordinated efforts to shut down an international forced prostitution and narcotics ring, creating joint initiatives with counterparts in Spain, Serbia, Hungary, and Slovenia. She ensured that victims returning to Croatia received the assistance they needed in the difficult process of reintegration.



Simona Broomes Guyana

Simona Broomes is a courageous leader in assisting human trafficking victims and raising awareness about human trafficking in Guyana. After 25 years as a miner, in 2012 she established the *Guyana Women Miners Organization* (GWMO), a volunteer membership and advocacy organization, to empower women miners and address the economic discrimination and physical intimidation that women miners face. The GWMO is the first organization of its kind in Guyana comprising women miners advocating on a cross-section of social and economic issues. Ms. Broomes has worked relentlessly to engage the government, the international community, and the media to raise public awareness about human trafficking, identify traffickers, promote access to victim care in remote mining communities, improve the law enforcement response, and increase job training for women in mining.

In April, Ms. Broomes was physically assaulted by traffickers while rescuing victims. Despite the dangers of retaliation, however, she has assisted several victims, and GWMO members have temporarily housed survivors before transporting them from remote areas to government care and law enforcement officials in the capital. Under her dynamic leadership, the GWMO and its 440 members have become undeniably powerful anti-trafficking advocates and a recognized force in





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TIP Heroes *cont. from pg. 7*

combating human trafficking while promoting equality and economic opportunities for women in Guyana.

Mohammed Bassam Al-Nasseri Iraq

Mohammed Bassam Al-Nasseri has played a critical role in the development, passage, and implementation of Iraq's comprehensive 2012



anti-trafficking legislation. As a capacity building officer at the *International Organization for Migration*, Mr. Al-Nasseri has provided superior leadership and unflagging support to the *International Trafficking in Persons Working Group* in Iraq, a forum for Iraq's *Central Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, to coordinate with the international community to fight human trafficking.

Mr. Al-Nasseri also served as a tireless advocate for 35 stranded Ukrainian and Bulgarian construction workers in Iraq. During daily visits to the construction site where the workers were living in crowded, dark, dirty, and unventilated conditions without electricity, money, or water, Mr. Al-Nasseri delivered essential medical assistance, potable water, and hot food, and assisted the workers so they could call home. Mr. Al-Nasseri worked closely with various government ministries on the workers' case. Through his advocacy efforts, the

workers were spared from even more dire circumstances and were repatriated back to their home countries, where they continue to participate in legal proceedings against their former employer. Mr. Al-Nasseri's heroic and continuing involvement in this case is just one example of his exceptional commitment to fighting human trafficking.

Ippei Torii Japan

Ippei Torii has been a forceful leader in anti-trafficking efforts as the secretary general for *Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan* (SMJ), which has provided shelter and assistance to more than 4,000 foreign workers in Japan who have escaped from exploitative conditions or sought help recovering unpaid wages. SMJ has offered advice and assistance by telephone to more than 1,200 foreign workers in Japan's *Industrial Trainee and Technical Intern Program* (TTIP), a government-run program that recruits unskilled labor to work at factories and farms in Japan. Awareness of Mr. Torii's network has spread by word of mouth by foreign workers, who distribute mobile phone numbers of SMJ staff to those in need of assistance.



Susan Ople The Philippines

Susan "Toots" Ople is founder and president of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, a Philippine non-profit organization dedicated to helping distressed



Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) with labor and migration issues. The Ople Center provides free legal assistance to survivors of human trafficking, as well as other free reintegration services. It represents the OFW sector on the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), a successful multi-agency government body that, with the help of the private sector, civil society, and international partners, combats all forms of human trafficking. With an estimated 10 million Filipinos working abroad, the Ople Center has been a leader in calling for an increased focus on combating labor trafficking.

Ms. Ople works tirelessly to reintegrate trafficking victims into Philippine society, believing that skills training combined with good job placement will empower these workers to secure safer employment. Through her leadership, the Ople Center has entered into partnerships with hotels, private sector companies, and legislative offices to secure jobs and training for trafficking survivors. One woman trained at the center, a former domestic worker in Libya, now heads the housekeeping unit of a major resort hotel in Cebu, while another trafficking survivor works as an employee of IACAT.



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Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
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Human Trafficking & Technology

In the fight against modern slavery, technology can be a double-edged sword. Traffickers use technology to advertise their services widely and develop new methods to recruit, manipulate, and lure potential victims. Meanwhile, governments, anti-trafficking advocates, and technology companies are collaborating to leverage technological tools to turn the tables on the traffickers. (TIP, pg. 14)

Innovations in prevention include mobile and SMS technologies that allow users to send alerts about human trafficking or allow payments to workers to be traced so that they are less vulnerable to the threat of bonded labor. Social media platforms can be used to engage the public at large and raise awareness of this crime worldwide.

Technology can also help protect victims. Mobile devices and SMS technologies may also enable survivors of human trafficking to more readily reach out to service providers and seek help. Victim identification by law enforcement is made easier through facial-recognition software that is able to locate the images of minors who are being exploited online – even when copies of the image have been digitally altered.

Prosecuting human traffickers requires evidence; technology makes the crime more traceable. The cell phones and computers of traffickers and victims alike contain archives of text messages, voicemails, geo-tagged data, and web browsing history, all of which can be “evidentiary gold mines” for law enforcement. Pattern recognition and data analysis used to detect money laundering can also help expose human trafficking schemes.

Some technology giants have joined the fight against human trafficking. These are but a few examples of how corporations have leveraged their own resources and technology to help eliminate modern slavery:

- **Google** funded a new global data sharing collaboration by granting \$3 million to anti-trafficking organizations *Polaris Project* (<http://www.polarisproject.org/>), *Liberty Asia* (<http://libertyasia.org/>), and *La Strada International* (<http://lastradainternational.org/>) to connect anti-trafficking helplines to help identify illicit patterns and provide victims more effective support.

- **Palantir Technologies**, a major software company, initiated a partnership in 2012 to provide the analytical platform and engineering, training, and support resources to the *National Human Trafficking Resource Training Center* to enable the study and application of data derived from its call records.

Read More: <http://www.palantir.com/2013/04/collaborating-with-googles-global-impact-award-winners-to-fight-human-trafficking/>

- **Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit** and **Microsoft Research** collaborated to support researchers in 2012 to highlight the harmful role that technology plays in the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Read More: <http://www.microsoft.com/government/ww/safety-defense/initiatives/Pages/dcu-child-exploitation.aspx>

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Informative Web Sites:
 (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

U.S. State Dept.
2013 Trafficking
in Persons Report

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/index.htm>

Fact Sheets from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/fs/index.htm>

- **LexisNexis** established the **Human Trafficking Awareness Index**, a tool that tracks and analyzes the volume of published news articles related to human trafficking produced by 6,000 of the most influential news sources from more than 120 countries. LexisNexis monitors supply chains in the global market.

Read More: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/products/smartwatch.page>
<http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/international-foreignlaw/blogs/issues-spotlight-rol/archive/2013/05/10/looted-resources-in-global-supply-chains.aspx>

- **Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children** convinced tech companies to better identify and share evidence of child exploitation and to reduce demand by micro-targeting internet users who may visit suspect sites.

Read More: <http://www.wearethorn.org/whatwedo/>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

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