



Trafficking in Women and Children

RESOURCES

VIDEOS

1. Sisters and Daughters Betrayed

Global Fund for Women

1375 Sutter St. #400

San Francisco, CA 94109 USA

or place an order over the phone by calling 415-202-7640

or on the web: www.globalfundforwomen.org

Cost \$25 (Video also available in formats usable in Europe, Asia and Eastern Europe)

2. So Deep a Violence: Prostitution, Trafficking and the Global Sex Industry

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

PO Box 9338

N. Amherst, MA 01059 USA

Fax: 413-367-9262 or order on the web : <http://www.catwinternational.org/>

Cost: \$29.95 (Outside US add \$3.50 for postage)

WEBSITES

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

<http://www.catwinternational.org/> -- A non-governmental organization promoting women's human rights. It works internationally to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms.

Condition féminine Canada

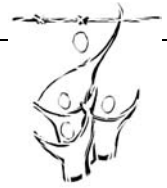
www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/ - Bilingual website -- Status of Women Canada (SWC) is the federal government department which promotes gender equality, and the full participation of women in the economic, social, cultural and political life of the country.

Ecpat International

<http://www.ecpat.net/eng/index.asp> -- A network of organizations and individuals working for elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Sweatshop Watch

<http://www.sweatshopwatch.org/> --A coalition of groups and individuals committed to eliminating sweatshop conditions in the global garment industry. They believe that workers should be earning a living wage in a safe and decent working environment, and that those who benefit the most from the exploitation of sweatshop workers must be held accountable.

**US State Department**

<http://usinfo.stat.gov/topical/global/traffic/>

The US State Department maintains an informative website on trafficking throughout the world. One good source of information posted here is the **Trafficking in Persons Report 2002**.

Washington State, USA

Washington State Task Force Report on Trafficking in Persons (November 2002)

Obtain from Office of Crime Victims Advocacy, 906 Columbia Street, SW, P.O. Box 48304, Olympia, WA 98504-8304. (360) 725-2895. Or order online at http://www.ocva.wa.gov/trafficking_final_report

The Maquila Solidarity Network (MSN)

<http://www.maquilasolidarity.org/> -- A Canadian network promoting solidarity with groups in Mexico, Central America, and Asia organizing in maquiladora factories and export processing zones to improve conditions and win a living wage.

GUEST SPEAKER

Laura J. Lederer, Deputy Senior Advisor, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, US Department of State. Prior to joining the current administration, Dr. Lederer ran an effective NGO which provided services for women who had been trafficked. She is anxious to enlist the support of women religious to eliminate this form of modern slavery. Telephone: 202-647-2990

BOOKS

1. Katharine Moon. **Sex Among Allies: Military Prostitution in U.S. – Korea Relations** Columbia University Press: New York, 1997 (An update of this book is also available).

2. Musa Khan Jalalzai. **Women Trafficking and Prostitution in Pakistan and Afghanistan** Dua Publications: 25-c, Lower Mall, Lhaora, Pakistan.

wasishah786@hotmail.com (Copy available at General Administration, Longueuil)

REPORTS

Trafficking in Persons Report 2002, US Department of State (available on website – see above)



LATIN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES - CASE OF BRAZIL by Priscila Siqueira

Mrs. Siqueira is a founding member of SOS Mate Atlantica and president of the Department of Marginalized Women of Sao Paulo, a nongovernmental organization which offers support and consultation services to over fifteen groups of women. Added to this is a documentation centre as well as the publication of a trimestrial bulletin on the situation of children, adolescents and women prostitutes. Mrs. Siqueira has a long experience as a journalist and editor-in-chief. In 1996, she was invited by UNICEF to participate in the first World Conference on the Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Children and Adolescents held in Sweden.

To better understand what goes on in Brazil concerning the globalization and the trafficking of women, children and adolescents, we have to put this situation in its context at the centre of an international scenario.

First, Brazil is the largest country in south America, with a population of about 166 million inhabitants, the majority of whom live in urban areas. The metropolitan area of Sao Paulo, for example, with its 16 million inhabitants, is the third largest city in the world after Tokyo and Mexico, respectively.

It is difficult to understand why Brazil, a country rich in natural resources, with its vast forests, farm lands, rich coastal environment, as well as its abundant mineral resources, can have at the same time, a large part of its population poor and starving.

Brazil has a model of distribution of resources that is extremely unjust. You have to acknowledge that the makeshift living conditions of a sizeable segment of the population are not due to an absolute lack of resources, but rather to their unequal distribution.

In 1998, the UN Report on Human Development revealed that 20% of the more well-to-do of the Brazilian population controlled 64% of the national revenue. There are 50 million Brazilians living in poverty, which means, in their case, living on 50 cents US a day, while 17 million are completely penniless and do not even have this amount. The unjust distribution of resources is at the origin of a vast inequality at the centre of Brazilian society, and as a result, 10 million Brazilians are out of work.

Brazilians make up 40.4% of the economic revenue of the population. However, there exists great inequality between men and women. Research carried out by the Faculty of Human Sciences of Belo Horizonte, in the State of Minas Gerais, show that there are about 1.1 million prostitutes in the country. We believe, however, that the real number is higher, since it is very difficult to obtain quantitative data when the question is linked to prejudices, to false morality and to "sin."

Among the country's open wounds, we find sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. This situation is all the more overwhelming because it projects the picture of young human beings in the bed of adults, often brought there because of poverty and violence.



TRAFFICKING

At the first International Conference on the Trafficking of Human Beings, held in Brasilia in October 2000, the Human Rights Foundation of Helsinki - An NGO from Finland, indicated that Brazilians represent 15% of the entire traffic of women in South America. These women are “exported” throughout the world to work in night clubs, brothels, saunas, as well as other similar businesses. The Conference’s sponsor, the UN prevention of drugs and crime section, admitted that Brazil is the greatest “exporter of women” destined for sexual exploitation in South America.

At another conference on the exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas, held in April 1996 in Brasilia, it was also confirmed that Brazil was the greatest “exporter of children” for sexual purposes in South America.

According to the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, there are today about 75,000 Brazilian prostitutes in Europe. Another report done by the Brazilian International Relations Agency shows that the main destination of these women is Spain. In this country, they are usually concentrated in the North, that is in Basque country; in Bilbao, there are about 10,000 Brazilian prostitutes.

The majority of these Brazilian “exported women” come from the states of Goiás, Maranhão, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. To be able to leave the country without attracting official attention, these Brazilians travel with about \$1000 US in their pockets, and take different flights. Once they have arrived at their destination, they are housed in hotels and are quickly part of the prostitution network, although they left Brazil hoping to become waitresses and cleaning women, but not prostitutes.

The testimony of many of these women is one of total abandonment. It is a common practice that once at their destination, their passport and their money, furnished ahead of time by the trafficking organization, is taken away from them. Unable to express themselves in any other language than Portuguese, their native language, they become completely dependent on their bosses and the owners of the prostitution network.

According to the Brazilian Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on the Trafficking of Women and Children, most of these women and children leave the country from the International Airport of Guarulhos or that of Rio de Janeiro. They usually get their passport on the same day that they leave Brazil. The women who come from the Northeast part of the country usually leave Brazil by going through Salvador. The two trips have Portugal or Spain as their destination. Another known route is that of the women from the West Center and the North of Brazil who are sent to Suriname, and from there to Amsterdam.

During the first International Conference on the Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm in 1996, UNICEF presented a report showing that there are about a million children who disappear every year. The fact that so many children disappear every year shows very well that it is not a question of isolated cases. This is part of the global trade of human beings. The largest illegal-trade market is weapons, the second is drugs, and the third involves women, adolescents and children.



A FEW CASES

In October 1998, eight Brazilians, between 19 and 34 years of age, lived in prostitution in Israel, where they were saved from the hands of the Russian mafia. On returning to Brazil, they hid their face from television cameras for fear of being killed by members of the mafia. In their case, they had left Brazil three months earlier, receiving the promise that they would work as cleaning women or waitresses in Tel Aviv.

All these women told the same story about the way they learned of Kelly Fernandes Martins' death. Kelly's body was found by Israeli police in September 1998. She had been beaten and drugged after having tried to escape from the prostitution network. Kelly's death revealed the international trade of Brazilians by the Russian and Israeli mafia.

According to the testimony of Katia Regina Fernandes, a nineteen-year-old, she went to Israel to work in a snack bar. Since she had been promised a salary of \$1500 a month, she had planned to buy an apartment for her family once she returned to Brazil. However, on her arrival in Israel, they took away her passport, and besides, she could speak only with her colleagues and could leave the workplace only if escorted by mafia security members. In addition, she spoke no English and no Hebrew.

According to the testimony of Ana Lucia Furtado, 34 years of age, she was forced to serve 15 clients a night during her stay in Israel. She also had to serve clients who had sexually transmittable diseases.

The case of Simone Borges Felipe, a 23-year-old, who went to Bilbao in Spain to work as a waitress in 1996, has been amply publicized. What happened to her is what usually happens to all of these women. She was treated as a slave and lived upstairs from the nightclub where she worked. Three months after she left Brazil, her parents received word that she had died of pneumonia. Her body arrived in Brazil in a locked casket. In spite of many attempts to resolve the case with the help of the National Committee on the Trafficking of Women, the case has still not been resolved.

TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

True, intensive development of means of communication has transformed the world into a global village. Nowadays, we can see simultaneously, even without leaving our living room, all that is happening on the other side of the world. Unfortunately, so far, the hopes that in this way, we could learn a process of democratizing information, as well as creating a better world, have been fruitless.

In my country, trade relations have not changed significantly with globalization since they make, as always, the rich countries richer. If a third-world country is in competition with a rich country in the world market, it will surely suffer economic retaliation afterward.

The International economic agenda says that to succeed in this new international order, a country must open its domestic market to imported merchandize. Yet, the contrary usually doesn't happen. Rich countries continue to protect their domestic markets.



I am of the '60s generation who believed that we could live in a world of justice and peace, as well as of technological progress, that everybody could work less and have more free time and quality of life, as well as better standards of life. All this is partially true since we have the technology that could make this dream come true. Yet, unfortunately, the machine replaces work that domestic helpers did once upon a time, and these workers are then fired. Those who keep their job see their load of work double, without their salary increasing, however. With this kind of development, it is the quality of life of the world as a whole which is deteriorating, while profits remain in the hands of a very small minority.

GLOBALIZATION OF POVERTY

Brazil is a country which has 80 million potential consumers. Certainly, this is a huge market. Moreover, the new president of the United States has just ordered a report on the domestic market of Brazil. Nevertheless, what is tragic in this new millennium is the indifference to the other half of our society, the other 80 million persons who are not part of the consumer's market because they earn barely enough to buy the food necessary for their survival.

Hunger, famine, poverty are among the determining factors of family and social disintegration. Human beings have become merchandise, and trade of humans, a routine. Even the CIA, in one of its reports in February 2001, acknowledged that with the on-going economic globalization process, famine, wars and social conflicts would increase in the world.

Minutes of formation days on The Globalization of Prostitution and Sexual Trafficking

Publication of the Quebec Committee on Women and Development of AQOCI, May 2001