

STAYING CURRENT Human Trafficking

September 2009 in Review

This document compiles and summarizes reports, headlines and other items that relate to human trafficking which OCTIP has obtained through colleagues, partners and online resources.

The views and opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Please click on the blue text for more information on each story.

– CANADA –

► THREE WOMEN TRAFFICKED IN EDMONTON MASSAGE PARLOUR

On September 5th, 2009 Edmonton Police, RCMP, and Canada Border Services Agency [searched an Edmonton massage parlour and removed three women who are believed to be victims of human trafficking](#). Three others, one man and two women, have been arrested and their charges include human trafficking, operating a bawdy house, and living off the avails of prostitution.

The three trafficked women, one from China and two from Fiji, were allegedly forced to perform sex acts in the massage parlour, work long hours, were confined in a small room, and threatened not to leave. The women were removed to a local shelter.

[The Alberta Action Coalition on Human Trafficking \(ACT\) is collecting signatures](#) to petition the Edmonton Police Service to dedicate more resources to responding to human trafficking. ACT says this is only the first identified human trafficking case in Alberta and there will soon be others.

► SALVATION ARMY CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKING

[The Salvation Army's campaign against human trafficking in Vancouver is receiving criticism from sex work advocates](#). The campaign depicts abused women who are forced into sex work and aims to put a face to human trafficking. Sex work advocates argue that the campaign is sensational and misleadingly portrays sex workers. They believe that all sex trade workers are at greater risk of harassment as police seek to locate trafficking victims. However, Salvation Army spokesperson Brian Venables says [the campaign](#) isn't aimed at all sex workers, but specifically those who are kidnapped or forced into the trade against their will.

► ONTARIO MAN ARRESTED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF U.S. WAR VETERANS

[Mark Justice has been charged with two counts of human trafficking for smuggling two U.S. War Veterans into Canada](#), confining them in a psychiatric facility in Windsor and taking their pension cheques. The Sandwich Manor is a group home for adults with mental challenges, and upon inspection, does not comply with safety regulations. However, the city will not close it immediately in order to give the residents time to find a new place to live.



► WALK TO STOP CHILD TRAFFICKING

On Sunday September 27th, students and other protesters [marched against child trafficking in Montreal](#). The organizers, Stop Child Trafficking Now, say that 1500 children are victims of trafficking in Canada every year and advocate for stiffer sentences for convicted child traffickers.

– GLOBAL –

► OSCE ORGANIZES HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE IN VIENNA

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) organized a high level conference in Vienna this month, with a focus on [human trafficking in the context of the current economic crisis](#). In a video address, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged the OSCE to renew its focus on prevention efforts, saying that new economic pressures are likely to aggravate the problem of human trafficking further.

► SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY COULD HELP CURB SEX TOURISM AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This [article](#) explores the relationship between sex tourism and human trafficking, and discusses the idea of an international sex offender registry as part the solution to these crimes. International sex tourism for children and adults creates great incentive for human traffickers, says Siddharth Kara of Free the Slaves in Washington. To discourage people, especially known sex offenders, from travelling to other countries for sex tourism, a Republican Representative from New Jersey has introduced [Bill H.R. 1623](#) or the ‘International Megan’s Law’ which would alert officials when US sex offenders intend to travel.

► DNA PROJECT TO RECONNECT TRAFFICKED CHILDREN AND PARENTS

[A DNA project in Spain](#) and the U.S.A has the goal of helping reunite parents and children who have been separated by trafficking, forced labour, military activities, or forced adoptions. [DNA-PROKIDS](#) collects samples from parents and children looking for each other, and has conducted pilot projects in Mexico and Guatemala reuniting 200 kidnapped and smuggled children to their parents. _

► GOOD CORPORATE PRACTICE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The [United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking](#) (UN.Gift) and the UN Global Compact are requesting submissions from companies on how their business practices help prevent and combat trafficking in persons. Companies have a responsibility to ensure that their operations and products comply with international human rights standards, and the UN hopes to produce a document that will show the business community how they can make a difference in the fight against human trafficking.

► **DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY NOT WARRANTED**

In encounters with the law, diplomats living in the United States often invoke their diplomatic immunity and this usually stops cases from moving forward. However, recently a Manhattan judge has ruled that Lauro Baja Jr., a former U.N. Ambassador from the Philippines, [can not claim diplomatic immunity](#) in a case involving a maid who has claimed that Baja brought her to the US and forced her to work long hours with no pay. The judge said that Baja could not claim immunity because the duties of the maid were unrelated to Baja's diplomatic functions. This case is a positive move forward to ending what advocates call a long term pattern of trafficking and exploitation of domestic workers by foreign diplomats in the United States.

► **DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING IN HOUSTON, TEXAS**

[Six people in Houston have been arrested](#) for violently coercing American women and minors as young as 16 into working as prostitutes in commercialized sex businesses often disguised as modeling studios, health spas, massage parlours, and bikini bars. The arrests were the result of an investigation by the FBI and the Houston Police Department as part of the [Innocence Lost National Initiative](#), founded in June 2003 to address domestic sex trafficking of children.

– PUBLICATIONS –

The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons has a comprehensive library of documents related to human trafficking. For information, please contact us at octip@gov.bc.ca

► **FACILITATOR'S GUIDE – CHILD TRAFFICKING**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently published a [Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labour, Sexual, and Other Forms of Exploitation](#). The Manual looks at child trafficking within the context of children's rights, labour markets and migration dynamics. It argues that the key to fighting child trafficking is to stop it from being profitable through enhanced law enforcement, confiscating profits from traffickers, and increasing protection of children. This Training Manual is aimed at governments, workers' and employers' groups, and NGOs and international agencies working for children. It is composed of three textbooks, an exercise book, and an electronic guide for facilitators, and suggests a 5 day training schedule.

► **REPORT ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET**

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Najat M'jid Maalla, has issued a [report on child pornography on the internet](#). The report states that up to 200 new images of child pornography are uploaded onto the internet every day, and images are becoming increasingly shocking. Children are traumatized by the knowledge that images of them will remain on the internet for the rest of their lives. The Special Rapporteur makes several recommendations for eradicating child pornography, including recommendations for government, the private sector, and cooperation between the two.

► LIST OF GOODS PRODUCED BY CHILD LABOUR OR FORCED LABOUR

The United States Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) has issued its [2009 List of Goods Produced By Child Labour or Forced Labour](#). In a review of 77 countries' working conditions, ILAB identified 122 goods produced with forced labour, child labour, or both, in 58 countries. More goods were found to be made with child labour than forced labour, and the main industries identified are agriculture (cotton, sugarcane, tobacco, coffee, rice, cocoa), manufacturing (bricks, garments, carpets, footwear), and mining (gold and coal). It is hoped that this report will encourage consumers, firms, governments, labour unions and other stakeholders to use their economic powers to eliminate child labour and forced labour.

OFFICE TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Main Business Line: 250-953-4970 Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Toll Free 24 Hour Line: 1-888-712-7974

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