



KAIZER CHIEFS: Scoring against Human Trafficking

South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs soccer team is arguably Southern Africa's foremost soccer team, and one of the biggest brands in the region. Having garnered over 115 major honours and awards since 1970, Amakhosi (as they are known by their fans) are taking on a new opponent - Human Trafficking.

The team's Marketing Manager Jessica Motaung, has been appointed spokesperson on human trafficking, a move welcomed by the International Organization for Migration.

"Kaizer Chiefs has always stood for the values of life and dignity" explains Dara Carroll, brand manager for the team whose supporters go by the motto "Amakhosi 4 Life".

We have always advocated against ills like HIV and the abuse of women and children. Human trafficking falls within that category. It

takes away the trust, the dreams, the lives of society's most vulnerable women and children."

Kaizer Chiefs set the ball rolling when they endorsed South Africa's first annual human trafficking awareness week, 6-11 November, 2006. The team was spotted on television wearing t-shirts that bore a counter-trafficking message and IOM's national toll-free helpline number (0800-555-999), during the warm-up to their PSL match against Bloemfontein Celtic in Bloemfontein on 8 November, 2006.

An article posted on their website, and on the Premier Soccer League website, during the Human Trafficking Awareness Week, reads: "The entire Amakhosi family would like to take their part as ambassadors for the cause and take a stand against

this horrific form of slave trade. In keeping with the overall message of the campaign: "Blow the whistle!" The Amakhosi would like to encourage people to speak up and to be aware!"

In an interview granted to IOM, Dara Carroll explained that the involvement of Kaizer Chiefs, and the entire soccer fraternity in South Africa and the continent, is critical to the fight against human trafficking, especially in view of the upcoming Soccer World Cup.

"We know that human traffickers are gearing up for the Soccer World Cup. During the 2006 World Cup in Germany, an estimated 40 000 women were trafficked to satisfy the demand of soccer fans. We, as a soccer club, cannot endorse it."

She added that the chairman of Kaizer Chiefs, Kaizer Motaung, is a member of the Local Organising Committee of the 2010 World Cup, and he will be playing his part to raise the issue so that appropriate measures are put in place to minimise the activities of traffickers. She stressed that there needs to be a united national front against human trafficking.

"During the World Cup, the demand for sex will increase. At the same time, people will be willing to come here to look for opportunities. Human traffickers will take advantage of this to trick these persons into sex slavery. This is not permissible."

Dara Carroll said that while Kaizer Chiefs will continue to endorse the annual human trafficking awareness week, the fight is an ongoing one. She expressed the wish to collaborate with IOM, notably through their website (www.kaizerchiefs.com) and their publication (Amakhosi magazine). With proper scheduling and planning through the relevant government departments, she said they could even play a benefit match against human trafficking.

"It would be symbolic for different soccer teams to play matches against human trafficking in all five major cities that would host World Cup matches. This will send out a clear message."

She added, "Our current theme is 'Welcome to the Family'. We want people to come here and become part of the Soccer family, not become slaves." ■



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For me as a woman, it's a cause close to my heart and just having given birth to my boys, it resonates with me that human life must be valued. Kaizer Chiefs is against any form of abuse to women and children and is categorically against any form of human trafficking!"

Jessica Motaung, Kaizer Chiefs Marketing Manager and Spokesperson against Human Trafficking, during the SA Human Trafficking Awareness Week that was observed between 6-11 November, 2006.

Editorial

Dear Reader,

On the regional and international front, IOM organised a regional MIDSA (Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa) workshop on irregular migration, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling - at Mauritius last October. Attended by senior officials of 15 Southern African states as well as IOM's Director General, the participants retained earlier recommendations related to the principles of prevention, prosecution and protection, as well as regional cooperation to counter human trafficking. This workshop was the first to include participants from similar dialogue processes other Regions, such as

North Africa, North/Central America and Asia.

Early November I was pleased to head an IOM-SACTAP delegation to Bangkok, Thailand, for fruitful discussions on reducing the number of Thai women trafficked to South Africa as well as improving assistance to returning victims - with the Thai authorities, NGOs and IOM (the Royal Thai Embassy in Pretoria and IOM Bangkok greatly facilitated this mission).

Subsequently we were able to attend a meeting of the Bali Process, a 46-member Regional Consultation of Asian and Australasian governments deliberating on human trafficking and smuggling. We were able to brief participants on human trafficking and migrant smuggling from Asia to Southern

Africa.

In summary, this illustrates how to human trafficking and smuggling, through and from Southern Africa is part of a global trend that the various regions concerned need to cooperate on. IOM is ready to provide assistance on capacity building to reduce or manage these negative trends throughout our Region.

With all best wishes to all our readers for the New Year, and with sincere thanks to our donors in the fight against human trafficking, - and please do write to us with your comments and observations. ■

Hans-Petter Boe
Regional Representative for Southern Africa, IOM

Mozambican Community Theatre Combats Human Trafficking

"Mozambican migrants rarely have access to information in their own languages, and by using entertainment, we hope to give a very human face to the issue of human trafficking and women's rights."

This month, the curtain was raised on a new theatrical production to raise awareness of human trafficking amongst the Mozambican community in South Africa.

Produced by IOM's Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP), together with Community Media for Development (CMFD), the play, *Khuluma Afrika*, tells the story of two trafficked Mozambican sisters, who come to South Africa for a better life, only to find themselves separated and exploited.

In a foreign country where they have no one to turn to, the sisters keep their faith alive by writing letters that express their hardships, and the hope that one day they will find each other and return back home. Though one lives at a brothel and the other at a mine hostel, the trafficked sisters' lives seem almost parallel.

"The show aims to presents the serious issue of human trafficking in a lively and engaging way," says Deborah Walter, Director of CMFD. "Mozambican migrants rarely have access to information in their own languages, and by using entertainment, we hope to give a very human face to the issue of human trafficking and women's rights."

IOM estimates that at least 1,000 women and children are trafficked into South Africa from Mozambique each year, poverty being a huge factor in their susceptibility to promises made by traffickers. Once in South Africa, trafficked Mozambican women may find themselves working in Johannesburg's sex industry or sold in mining areas to migrant mineworkers as "wives" who are forced to act as domestic workers and sex slaves without remuneration.

The Portuguese-language play will tour Gauteng's mining areas and community venues in Johannesburg, as well as key transit points for Mozambican migrants in South Africa throughout December.

Although human trafficking is a clandestine practice, communities are usually aware of the activities of the perpetrators. One of the aims of this production is to encourage whistle blowers to report suspected cases of human trafficking to the IOM national toll-free helpline number: 0800 555 999.

The play has been developed with Mozambican youth drama group Alertos Da Vida, who have created an energetic production combining music, dance and drama. The storyline was workshopped with the Mozambican cast to refine and develop authentic dialogue. In addition to the main production, there are also a series of comedy skits, which address life in the mines, living abroad, and migration.



Cast members of the Theatrical Production, *Khuluma Afrika*, pose for a photograph during rehearsals

Explaining his involvement in the production, Tuca Massingue, Alertos Da Vida group coordinator and actor, said:

"We want to help people know about this problem, and encourage people to call the helpline if they think someone has been trafficked. People coming from Mozambique do not know about their rights, or where to get help."

The production will be fully participatory, engaging audience members in post-production discussions, and giving them a chance to raise questions about human trafficking and the help and assistance offered by IOM. ■

Are International Measures Against Human Trafficking Effective?

A critical look at international instruments governing the fight against human trafficking, notably the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

There are several instruments at national, regional and international and regional levels that specifically address human trafficking, notably the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children of 2000 (known as the Palermo Protocol). The international community has made commitments and taken several steps against human trafficking, yet it remains a major humanitarian challenge. In addressing this global problem, several writers have considered whether the Palermo Protocol, and other treaties that deal with human trafficking, are playing the full role that they should, especially in terms of protecting victims of the trade.

Mohammed Mattar, Executive Director of US-based Protection Project, a counter-trafficking research institute, is critical of international conventions (that include trafficking provisions) as effective enforcement mechanisms. He posits that the current reporting mechanisms and committees that are established "with no real enforcement authority are inadequate and ineffective¹." He believes that international law does not provide effective remedies for victims of trafficking as it does not allow the victim to bring a legal claim against the trafficker. He is, however, less critical of the Palermo Protocol, which attempts to address this challenge by providing provisions that cover the whole trafficking process. State Parties are obliged to prevent and combat trafficking, but also encouraged to protect and assist victims, offer them the right to seek compensation from their traffickers, and make available temporary and permanent residency options in the country of destination.

On the other hand, Kelly Hyland has identified three particular shortcomings of the Palermo Protocol. Firstly, it does not contain any provision for the protection of victims from "prosecution for acts [victims are] forced to perform²." This means that the Protocol does not restrict signatory states from prosecuting trafficked persons for immigration violations, prostitution and other offences they may have committed in the process of being trafficked. Hyland further suggests that protection of victims' identities, privacy, and legal interests, according to the Palermo Protocol, is discretionary as there is no definition or qualification (in article 6 of the Protocol) of what "appropriate cases" for such protection might be. Therefore, it is up to signatory states to define such cases. A third shortcoming, in Hyland's view, is that the Palermo Protocol does not mention reintegration or the provision of services once a victim has been repatriated to her country of origin. In this light, Ryszard Piotrowicz, Law Professor at the University of Wales, argues that victims who are repatriated after they have given evidence against their traffickers might face severe risk of retribution

by their traffickers³.

Clearly, states have an obligation to develop criminal measures as part of their counter-trafficking policies. According to Ann D. Jordan, an American attorney who has specialised in protecting the rights of trafficked persons, states claim that the Palermo Protocol is a "law enforcement" instrument and that "victim protection should be linked to law enforcement goals, such as witness protection⁴." Meanwhile, writes Jordan, the responsibility rests on the individual states to consider "rights-protective national legislation," while the burden of advocacy rests on local NGOs. Anti-Slavery International supports the notion that victims of trafficking should be protected by the state while giving evidence against their traffickers. However, the organisation expresses the view that the current models of protection have a tendency to cater to the needs of law enforcement and not the rights of trafficked persons:

"Protection of victims per se, is not the same as protection of victims' human rights."

Jordan further maintains that countries often enforce an approach that only focuses on the organized crime structure of the offence and, therefore, does not consider or understand the problem from the victim's perspective. Inappropriate and inadequate laws and policies do not provide protection to victims of human trafficking, nor do they allow for prosecutions and convictions of the traffickers and other actors involved in the trafficking process. According to Jordan, there is also no provision for enforcement or penalties included in the Palermo Protocol. In other words, if a state does not comply with the provisions, there are no penalties involved. Lastly, she argues, the Palermo Protocol relies heavily on the development and implementation of domestic legislation within states to address human trafficking.

While recognising that there may be weaknesses in the

Palermo Protocol (as argued by the authors above) it was the first international instrument to give a clear and widely negotiated definition of trafficking in persons, and also included "...some mandatory and many detailed provisions for victims [of the trade]." Amongst these are particular provisions that focus on the assistance and protection of victims as well as their legal status (Articles 6 and 7). Article 9 of the Palermo Protocol specifically addresses preventative activities that should be incorporated by State Parties in their counter-trafficking responses. ■

1. Mattar, M.Y. *International Conventional Law on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children: Problems in Enforceability of International Trafficking Prohibitions*, Protection Project, January 2002, www.protectionproject.org.

2. Hyland, K. "The Impact of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children" *Human Rights Brief*, Vol 8 No 2, 2001, page 33

3. Piotrowicz, R. "European Initiatives in the Prevention of Victims of Trafficking who give evidence against their traffickers" *International Journal of Refugee Law*, No 14, 2002, page 263.

4. Jordan, A. "Human Rights or Wrongs? The Struggle for a Rights-based Response to Trafficking in Human Beings" *Gender and Development*, Vol 10, No 1, 2002, page 32.



"VERBATIM

My government appreciates and is willing to continue working with the organization [IOM] in raising awareness and combating human trafficking. My government will also continue to enhance the security at airports, harbours and border controls with IOM and other cooperating partners. Ladies and Gentlemen, Zambia just like any other country in the world is alive to this problem and is addressing it."

Permanent Secretary Peter Mumba, Ministry of Home Affairs, Zambia, at the High Level Seminar on Human Trafficking in Zambia and Southern Africa, 16 November, 2006.

Traffickers Target Women in War-Torn Iraq

Miriam*, 16, relives the day her father in Baghdad sold her off as a domestic worker in one of the prosperous Gulf nations. Instead, she was forced into the sex trade.

"I was a virgin and didn't understand what sex was. I was told that they [the traffickers] were going to get good money for my first night with an old local man who paid for my virginity. He was aggressive and hit me all the time," Miriam told IRIN.

Thousands of Iraqi women are being taken advantage of by unscrupulous sex worker traffickers seeking to exploit young girls' desperate socio-economic situation for profit, United Nations agencies have reported.

In Mariam's case, she was taken to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and kept in a house with 20 young girls, all of them sex workers, she said. Before she left Iraq, she and her three sisters were being cared for by her father. Their mother was killed during the US-led invasion of the country in 2003. Mariam said her father couldn't cope with looking after the children on his own and wanted her to go abroad, particularly given the increasing insecurity and daily violence in Iraq. In November 2005, a member of a trafficking ring offered Mariam's father an advance payment of US \$6,000 for her, saying she would work for a family in Dubai. He was promised that his daughter would be returned to Iraq after finishing a one-year contract. Mariam said she faced daily threats in Dubai from the traffickers, warning her not to try to leave. However, she managed to escape and is now back in Baghdad being looked after by a local NGO, the Organisation for Women's Freedom.

Thousands traded for sex work

The teenager's story is not uncommon. While accurate statistics are hard to come by, the Women's Freedom NGO estimates that nearly 3,500 Iraqi women have gone missing since the US-led occupation of Iraq began in 2003 and that there is a high chance many have been traded for sex work. It says 25 percent of these women have been trafficked abroad since the beginning of 2006, many unaware of their fate.

"People are desperate to get money to support their families ... just to have something to eat. If the government does not act on this issue, more women will be abused outside Iraq," Nuha Salim, spokeswoman for the NGO, said.

The Iraqi government says it is investigating cases of women being trafficked and has arrested some traffickers, but tackling insecurity in the country is its main priority.

Apart from the need for government action, women's-rights activists say that as long as there is a market for women abroad, the problem will continue and worsen. They call for more action against countries that turn a blind eye to the sex trade.

"Women are being taken outside of Iraq and are losing what is most precious to them - their dignity," Salim said.

Trafficking and prostitution are illegal in the six nations of the Gulf, although the region is a popular and common destination for trafficked women. According to the US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of 2006, an estimated 10,000 women from sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Europe, Asia and parts of the Middle East may be victims of sex trafficking in the UAE.

Gulf gangs

Sharla Musabih, a human-rights activist in Dubai who runs a shelter for abused and trafficked women, says sex workers in the UAE operate predominantly from hotels and organised gangs are behind much of the trade.

"It's not organised in the UAE but there is an organised mafia outside [the country] that owns hotels in the UAE and they organise it ... But, on the other hand, the big guys [Emirati nationals] involved in immigration are really concerned and are trying to do something about it and they care about it."

Musabih said it was common for girls to be promised domestic work and be forced into sex work. "I've heard the girls pay \$10,000 initially to come to the UAE. They get paid anything from 20 dirhams [\$6] to 20,000 [\$6,000] a night, depending on the client."

The US TIP Report states that "many victims [of trafficking] are jailed along with criminals and deported. Prosecutions for sex trafficking are extremely low relative to the scope of the problem. The report states that despite 100 reported complaints of trafficking for sexual exploitation in 2005, the UAE government reported only 22 convictions for sex-trafficking crimes. However, the report praised UAE authorities for the closer screening of visa applications by its embassies in source countries; for having set up a human-trafficking division to investigate trafficking crimes; and for training police, prosecutors, judges, and other government officials in combating trafficking.

Trafficked to Syria

The UAE is not the only destination for trafficked Iraqi women. Syria is increasingly becoming a popular destination for traffickers, according to humanitarian agencies.

A report released in May by the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), the UN's Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) spoke of "organised networks dealing with the sex trade" in Syria. It made a correlation between the deteriorating conditions of Iraqi citizens and an increase in prostitution and trafficking of Iraqi sex workers.

Last September, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) co-hosted a workshop with the Ministry of Interior to raise awareness on counter-trafficking. Maria Rumman, IOM chief of mission in Damascus, said IOM was assisting a Syrian government committee established to draft a counter-trafficking law, and was waiting for international donor funds for a proposed shelter to assist victims of trafficking. Without such a facility, she said, surveying the number of people trafficked into Syria was impossible. ■

Source: IRIN News, 26 Oct 2006

UAE: Stiff Penalties for Human Traffickers

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) ruler has ordered stiff penalties for human trafficking, as the oil-rich Gulf state tries to clean up its human rights record.

New legislation providing for penalties reaching life imprisonment is to come into effect one month after its publication in the official gazette.

The law issued by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan on 11 November, 2006, stipulates the creation of a 'national committee for combating human trafficking' comprising representatives of government and security departments to modernise relevant regulations.

The maximum penalty of life imprisonment will be meted out when a convict is a founder, leader, member of, or recruiter for, an organized group of three or more people involved in human trafficking, and when the victim is a woman, child under 18 or a handicapped person.

The law also provides for life imprisonment for those convicted of using force or torture to commit human trafficking and for convicts working in the public sector. It further applies to a convict whose victim is a spouse or dependent, and to instances where the trafficking is 'transnational' in nature.

Penalties of between one and five years in jail will apply for lesser forms of involvement in human trafficking. Suspects who had intended to perpetrate human trafficking, but inform authorities and

enable them to prevent the crime are to be exempted from punishment.

Hefty fines of up to one million dirhams (USD 272,000) will be imposed on companies and institutions involved in human trafficking, with the firms also facing the risk of being temporarily or permanently shut down.

These measures follow the US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of June 2006, that promoted the Gulf state from "Tier 3" (comprised of countries have a serious problem of human trafficking but are making no significant efforts to address the problem) to "Tier 2 Watchlist" (comprised of countries that are making efforts but which efforts are not enough to address the problem). The report describes the UAE as a destination country for men, women, and children trafficked from South and East Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East for involuntary servitude and sexual exploitation.

The UAE took a major step to improve its rights record last year by banning the use of children as camel jockeys and funding the repatriation of child jockeys to their home countries in Asia and Africa as well as their rehabilitation.

It has also started introducing measures to improve the lot of mostly South African construction and other blue collar workers, whose working and living conditions have drawn criticism from groups such as New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Apart from some Africans and Asians, the majority of the trafficked girls come from Central Asia, particularly CIS member-countries. Many are young, while some are former students who came looking for work but got caught in poverty, exploitation, hopelessness and fear.

According to Ayesha Ahmed Al Marri of the Dubai Police Human Rights Department, these women arrive on weekly flights from their countries on pre-arranged visas from agents, who then confiscate their passports and put them to "work." They force them into buying back their travel documents and paying for the arranged visas and their dingy accommodation.

After their visas expire, the women are on the run and become entirely dependent on their traffickers. Foreigners incur a fine of 100 dirhams (\$30) for each day spent in the UAE without a visa. ■

Source: Agence France-Presse, 16 November 2006

UAE's Ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan: Firm against human trafficking.



Traditional Practices Being Abused To Exploit Children In West Africa

Cultural and traditional beliefs in West Africa are being misused to abuse children across a region where an estimated two million children are thought to be victims of human trafficking or other forms of exploitation, warns the International Organization for Migration.

The informal and traditional African practice of poor parents sending their children to friends, relatives and to informal schools such as Koranic schools or Daaras because they don't have the resources to send them to conventional institutions, has long been regarded as a form of community support. Education in Koranic schools for both rich and poor is widely respected in teaching people to appreciate material deprivation and to help people become responsible adults.

However, the practice, which is unregulated, can make children vulnerable to human trafficking and is open to abuse.

Some Koranic masters or teachers in Daaras, give little or no education to the children they are entrusted with. Hundreds of thousands of children in West Africa are being forced to become street beggars for the personal enrichment of the masters themselves and are punished or beaten if they refuse to beg or don't collect enough food and money at the end of each day's work.

Although the teachers claim that making children beg is essential to the survival of the Daaras as well as being an important lesson to learn on the harsh realities of life, parents are usually ignorant of what is happening to their children, particularly if they have been sent to other West African countries or to big urban centres.

Senegal is now the centre of the Daara system in West Africa, receiving boys from various West African countries. But it also receives many girls from the region, trafficked or exploited as domestic workers or in the sex industry along the beaches of the Petite Côte, where tourism is flourishing.

The girls, also sent to distant family and friends as part of a long respected tradition, can be as young as seven or eight and forced to work for very long hours with little to no pay.

Other examples of child exploitation and trafficking include Malian children in Mauritania working as domestic workers, Malian children working in exploitative conditions in the cotton fields of Côte D'Ivoire and

Burkinabe children in Mali being forced to work on farms instead of receiving an education.

"Awareness of the issue among the public and families in particular is slowly gaining, but it is still very limited. Governments and civil society need to do much more to address this, and more importantly, the consequences on the children themselves. And they need to act much faster," said Armand Rousselot, IOM's Regional Representative for West Africa.

Although member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed the Dakar Declaration on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons in 2001 committing them to greater coordination in counter-trafficking efforts and to coming up with a legislative framework to end human trafficking in the region and recently, progress had been slow. However, ECOWAS and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) recently agreed on a three-year plan of action and adopted a multi-lateral cooperation agreement to protect women and children from human trafficking in their respective regions.

"The plan of action is a very important step forward and is to be applauded. But it is critical that the actions listed are fully implemented if efforts to counter human trafficking in West Africa are to be really successful and the suffering of these children in particular, is to be stopped," said Ndioro Ndiaye, IOM Deputy Director General.

Working with partners on the ground including national NGOs and the financial support of the US State Department, IOM is working to raise awareness of child trafficking and to help the victims.

Assistance includes returning children who have been trafficked from other countries back home to be reunited with parents, once they have been informed of what has happened to their children. The abuse of their trust in a friend or family member is disturbingly common across the region. In just one village in Guinea Bissau, four boys now returned home had similar tales to tell. ■

Source: IOM News Release No. 24/2006

SADC Needs Regional Policies and Programmes

Human trafficking occurs across national borders as much as it does within them. No country is immune. This means that there is a need for regional co-operation in addressing the problem. SADC member-states, just like other regional bodies, have recognised this need. However, until concrete action is taken at national, sub-regional and regional levels to develop and implement the necessary policies and programme, states will continue to find it difficult to deter and punish human traffickers operating across their borders.

The US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for 2005 revealed that only Tanzania and Zambia have legislation that specifically includes trafficking in persons. Other countries in the region, such as South Africa, Malawi, Madagascar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have charged their law reform commissions with developing comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation. Others have developed various initiatives against trafficking in persons. These include a plan of action to combat child trafficking in Angola, a steering group addressing child soldiers in the DRC, a counter-trafficking committee in Madagascar, and an anti-trafficking inter-agency working group in Mozambique.

Meanwhile, there are very few cases of co-operation beyond country borders in SADC. According to the 2005 US TIP Report, Mozambique signed an agreement with the Republic of South Africa, specifying trafficking in persons as a point of discussion and information sharing in the agreement. The 2005 TIP report also indicates that the Zimbabwean Government is engaging neighbouring governments "to develop a regional plan of action that will focus on assessing the scope of the problem and formulation anti-trafficking legislation."

The Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) recommends in its 2005 Report that in order to prosecute traffickers, address the demand for exploitative services, and provide appropriate protective services to victims of trafficking, states must strengthen their cooperation with one another. This will ensure that they adopt similar policies and programmes that aim to protect the rights of victims, including child victims of trafficking. The GCIM report suggests that areas requiring attention include border control policies, the demand for exploitative services and irregular migration, including trafficking in persons. Supporting the need for regional co-operation, UNICEF advocates against bilateral and multilateral agreements that are driven by a single country. Instead, if there is political will and agreement from all states in the region, the chance of a successful regional plan to combat trafficking in persons is much higher.

Within Southern Africa, SADC aims to address, amongst others, economic growth and development, alleviation of poverty, standards of living, and to provide support to the socially disadvantaged. Regional integration and the alignment of strategies and programmes can help to achieve these objectives. Other regions have made steps towards such harmonisation in combating human trafficking. For example, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted a Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings in May 2005. This Convention defines trafficking in Article 4, discusses prevention and co-operation measures in Article 5 to 9, and specific protective measures for victims in Article 10 to 17. Below are some areas that require attention in designing regional policies and programmes:

Legislation

A good starting point for SADC would be to support the process of aligning all national legislation in the region concerning trafficking in persons. Countries in the region should be encouraged to develop national legislation that is closely guided by the Palermo Protocol. The benefit of region-wide legislation developed according to the Palermo Protocol is a standard definition of human trafficking

that gives law enforcement agencies across the region both a clear mandate to investigate the phenomenon and prosecute traffickers on comparable legal grounds. Sharing of experiences during the process of drafting anti-trafficking legislation would further encourage countries to standardise the content of the non-criminal aspects of such legislation, including the protection of and assistance to trafficked persons, and residency options. Harmonised anti-trafficking legislation across the Southern African region is critical to a cross-border law enforcement response to human trafficking, which by nature thrives on transnationality.

Border Control Measures

Porous borders in the SADC region allow traffickers to easily move from one country to the next. In developing a regional response, capacity building of law enforcement officials at border crossings is essential. Training and skills development would allow them to identify potential trafficking situations and provide effective support measures to victims of the trade. The Council of Europe Convention indicates in Article 7 that individuals involved in an offence as stipulated in the Convention can be denied entry into a country or have their visas cancelled. A Southern African regional mechanism to combat human trafficking could include provisions on the legal status of traffickers, with provisions to deport or extradite these individuals to requesting countries.

Information Exchange

Investigations of trafficking cases are often difficult due to the transnational nature of the offence. A regional mechanism would provide an agreement on the information exchange. The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPPCO) has so far developed a strategic plan to address organized crime (including trafficking in persons) in the region. The objectives of SARPPCO include the co-ordination of regional activities and facilitating police co-operation. Consideration should be given to the use of "central authorities" or national focal points that can facilitate the process of information sharing and victim assistance between states.

Reintegration Assistance

Another key area of possible cooperation between states concerns development of procedures for victim identification, assistance, return and reintegration, especially in cases involving children. There needs to be a mechanism for proper assistance and reintegration, requiring a great deal of interaction between source and destination countries. It would be beneficial to have, in a regional mechanism, some standard operating procedures governing such matters. A regional mechanism in Southern Africa could consider appointing a person in each country to act as a guardian to trafficked children, and also facilitate the flow of information between the states.

Although SADC states already recognise the impact of trafficking in persons on the region, it is imperative to develop a regional response that addresses all aspects of the trafficking process, from development and enforcement of legislation, and the protection and empowerment of victims, to the development of strategies to address the demand for the services of trafficked persons. This can be achieved with the help of existing forums, like IOM's Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) workshops, which regularly bring together high-level state officials from SADC countries to address migration challenges. The most recent MIDSA Workshop took place from 11-13 October, 2006, in Mauritius, and focused on irregular migration, including human smuggling and human trafficking. At this workshop, participants all agreed that there is a need for a SADC Plan of Action against Human Trafficking. ■

SOUTH AFRICA: Child Traffickers Operate Across Borders

When the governments of Mozambique and South Africa decided to revive the transport route between Maputo and Johannesburg in the mid-1990s, child slaves were not the cargo envisaged for haulage.

Yet management at the Amazing Grace Children's Home (AGCH), a grassroots child welfare organisation in Malelane, near one of the main border-crossing points to Mozambique in South Africa's northeastern Mpumalanga Province, believe child traffickers are increasingly using the highway to deliver trafficked persons to local and overseas buyers.

Every month up to 100 Mozambican and Swazi children are trafficked along the Maputo corridor to Johannesburg, South Africa's economic hub, where they are sold into the local sex industry or transported to Europe, according to AGCH's expert on child trafficking, Vusi Ndukuya.

"Around 15 new children who have either escaped or been dumped by the traffickers along the Maputo corridor are placed in our care every month. So, if that is the number falling through the cracks, then many, many more are being trafficked," he reasoned.

Ndukuya has been coordinating the AGCH anti-child trafficking programme, launched in 2003 with funding from international child-welfare agency Terre des Hommes, for the past 18 months. He alleges that the human trafficking syndicates operating along the Maputo corridor include policemen, immigration officials, truck-drivers, taxi-drivers and people connected to local communities from which the children are sourced.

"The AGCH is close to the Lebombo border post between South Africa and Mozambique, where much of the business of child trafficking goes on. It is complex and involves all sorts of people: officials to get people across the borders and drivers to transport them.

"Once the trafficked children who arrive

here trust us, and they are not too traumatised, they open up and reveal stories that are awful in most cases. Some of them had been forced into labour, while others were used as sex slaves," he explained at his Malelane office.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) child protection advisor, Margie de Monchy, told IRIN that one of the difficulties of getting to grips with the issue of human trafficking was its secrecy.

"The problem with tackling human trafficking is that once authorities become aware of it in one region and try to deal with it, the traffickers move to another region that has little experience of it and carry on there."

Although concrete data is scarce, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) produced a report in 2003, which stated that Lesotho, Mozambique and Malawi, as well as refugee-producing areas in Africa, were key source-countries for women and children trafficked to South Africa.

Some of the victims interviewed as part of the study had been trafficked to European destinations. The report also claimed that women from Thailand, China and Russia were being trafficked to Southern Africa.

A year later IOM confirmed that transnational criminal syndicates were also trafficking South African women to the city of Macau in China, for sexual exploitation.

Little Thalia* is one of the unfortunate children to have experienced what it is like to have been enslaved. Her experiences have left her untrusting and cause frequent nightmares.

She explained that a female family acquaintance had come to her home in Swaziland while her father and brothers were at work. "She said come, let's go to my house; but she never said when I would be going back home. After that I do not remember a lot about the journey," recalled Thalia.

The 10-year-old was taken across the Swazi border into Mpumalanga by her abductor who brought the girl to Barberton,

where she was forced to work for two years.

Thalia did the household chores and laboured in the fields. In return, she was mentally

and physically abused - during her second year of captivity she was repeatedly raped by a man who came to the house while her captor was at work.

"I was given food, but life was not good - my mistress often liked to beat me. Things got worse during the second year because a man would come to the house and hurt me when my mistress was away; so I ran away and met a woman who helped me contact my family."

Ndukuya became so disturbed by the number of similar accounts he heard from children staying at the AGCH that he decided to carry out his own research along the Maputo corridor.

After months of discreet investigation, he and a colleague went to the border town of Komatipoort in October 2006, where they pretended to be Johannesburg bar-owners looking for young girls to work as dancers and prostitutes on their premises.

After spending 12 hours hanging around two well-known bars in the town, he was approached by a young woman who inquired why they had come all the way to Lebombo. After he told her, she said she could get him the girls he wanted.

"I gave her my number and we left. That was over a weekend, and by the following Wednesday she rang me and said she had young girls ready to send to Johannesburg, and that I could have them for R390 [\$55] each. When I asked her if they knew what was going on, she said they were very young and didn't know anything, so they should be easy to handle."

According to Ndukuya, child traffickers in South Africa can be divided into three categories: individuals who abduct a child for their own needs; impoverished communities that unwittingly send their children into bondage out of desperation; and child-trafficking syndicates that abduct children or acquire them to order.

The main reason child trafficking is so prevalent along the border between Mozambique and South Africa is because the immigration officials are lax when it comes to implementing immigration controls, Ndukuya alleged. "Women bring the children through the border post without a passport for them - they just pay the officials to let them through ... If the traffickers do not have the connection, they just cross the border illegally, away from the border post - it is not hard." ■

*Not her real name

Source: IRIN News, 24 November 2006



IOM's new anti-trafficking information campaign was launched in South Africa on December 1, 2006. It features billboards in Cape Town and Johannesburg, litterbins in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town, and posters and flyers that are distributed nationwide. A television ad encouraging people to report suspicious activity has been created by international advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi, and will start airing in early 2007.

Batswana Commissioner: "Human Trafficking is an Emerging Trend"

Human trafficking dominated discussions at the 35th Botswana Police Service Senior Officers annual conference. Speaking at a press conference on Friday, 10 November. Botswana Commissioner of Police, Edwin Batshu, said that the problems they deliberated on included rising transnational crime, drug trafficking and consumption, cyber crimes, terrorism, child labour and illegal firearms. However, the major topic was human trafficking. "Human trafficking is an emerging trend and we reminded ourselves that the police should be ready to tackle it," said Mr Batshu.

Recent reports in the local media in Botswana suggest that it is a country of transit point for human trafficking operations. Batshu said this should be treated as a very serious matter to be dealt with urgently. "We are all out to make sure this country won't be used for human trafficking," he warned.

Commissioner Batshu called for legislation against human trafficking, noting that "there are some legislative gaps in our laws to counter emerging trends such as human trafficking and terrorism". Mr Batshu said there is need for high-tech support in order to capacitate investigations conducted by special police departments in Botswana, including Forensic Sciences, Criminal Investigations Department and Special Support Group. ■



"We are all out to make sure this country won't be used for human trafficking." - Batshu

Sources:
 Republic of Botswana Daily News Online:
<http://www.gov.bw/cgi-bin/news.cgi?id=20061115>
 Mmegi News Online:
<http://www.mmegi.bw/2006/November/Tuesday14/cartoon.html>

Zimbabwe: Government Commits to Curbing Human Trafficking

The Government of Zimbabwe is committed to addressing human smuggling and trafficking, particularly of women and children, according to a senior government official.

Permanent Secretary for Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Dr. Perpetua Gumbo, stressed Zimbabwe's commitment to combating trafficking while officially opening a High-Level Seminar on Human Trafficking in Harare on Thursday 16 November 2006, an event organised by the International Organization for Migration's Harare office.

"Women and children are most vulnerable and they constitute the majority of victims. One of the responsibilities of our Ministry is to protect them. So we need to come up with strategies to economically empower our women and children so that they are not exploited. We need strategies that are home-grown and appropriate to Zimbabwe," she said.

Dr Gumbo added that the government has shown its commitment to combating the crime by setting up an Inter-Ministerial Task Force in April 2006 to formulate legislation, to protect victims, and prosecute traffickers under the country's Immigration and Sexual Offences Acts.

The head of Multilateral Affairs in the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tedeous Chifamba, who also attended the seminar, stated that Zimbabwe has been identified as a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking operations. In response, he called for a joint research assessment with IOM aimed at ascertaining the scope and the nature of the problem. This joint assessment, Mr. Chifamba said, would enable the government to respond to the challenge of human trafficking. He said that the Government of Zimbabwe has plans to ratify the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, draft anti-trafficking legislation, set up counter-trafficking units at all ports of entry, and conduct awareness-raising campaigns throughout the country. Zimbabwe was committed to cooperating with other SADC countries to fight the crime, said Mr. Chifamba.

Some 30 senior government representatives from the Ministries of Education, Sports and Culture, Higher and Tertiary Education, Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, as well as the Attorney General's Office, and Zimbabwe's Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Human Trafficking, attended the meeting. ■

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