

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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CONTENTS

WITNESSES

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, Office to Monitor And Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State.....	14
Timothy Williams, Director of Interpol – Washington DC	39
Dallas Jessup, Founder of Just Yell Fire	45
Deborah Sigmund, Director of Innocents at Risk.....	50
Sandra Fiorini, Flight Attendant.....	54
Selene Martin, Director of Lexis Nexis Care	57

LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING

Prepared Statement of the Honorable Frank Wolf, a Representative in Congress from the State of Virginia and Cochairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.....	4
Prepared Statement of the Honorable Chris Smith, a Representative in Congress from the State of New Jersey and Member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.....	9
Prepared Statement of Luis CdeBaca.....	18
Prepared Statement of Timothy Williams	41
Prepared Statement of Dallas Jessup.....	47
Prepared Statement of Deborah Sigmund	52
Prepared Statement of Sandra Fiorini.....	55
Prepared Statement of Selene Martin.....	59

APPENDIX

Hearing Notice.....	68
Trafficking in Persons Report 2010: Country Narrative Vietnam	69
Additional Information on Vietnam Meriting Tier 3 Designation as Prepared by Boat People SOS.....	73
Witness Biographies	75
Prepared Statement of Daniel Sheth, Board of Directors of Airline Ambassadors.....	78
Prepared Statement of Linda Smith, Founder and President of Shared Hope International.....	80

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,

Washington, D.C.

The Commission met, pursuant to call, at 10:07 a.m., in Room 2255, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. James P. McGovern [co-chairman of the Commission] presiding.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Good morning, everybody. The hearing will begin. I would like to welcome all of you today to today's hearing on trafficking.

Today's hearing of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission was inspired by one of the strongest human rights voices in United States Congress, my good friend and colleague from New York, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. As the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Human Trafficking, she stands shoulder to shoulder with our distinguished executive committee member from New Jersey, my friend, Chris Smith, in fighting the despicable practice of human trafficking, joined by so many of our colleagues; and they have become the congressional champions for the countless victims.

It is my sad duty today to report that Carolyn cannot join us at our hearing this morning as her brother has passed away, and she has to spend some time with her family. Our thoughts and our prayers are with her and her entire family during this difficult time, and I would like to express the condolences on behalf of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and all of its members for Carolyn's loss.

Ladies and gentlemen, human trafficking is one of the most serious threats to the protection of human rights as it exploits the most vulnerable populations in the most vulnerable circumstances in a predatory manner both within and across international borders.

The International Labor Organization, ILO, estimates that at least 12.3 million children and adults are in forced labor, bonded labor, in commercial sex servitude at any given time. INTERPOL estimates human trafficking to be a \$28 billion enterprise.

The landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, which was authored in the House by Chris Smith and cosponsored by the then ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Sam Gejdenson, defines human trafficking as inducing a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any persons under age 18 who perform a commercial sex act are considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present.

As a cosponsor of the original TVPA and its subsequent reauthorizations, I am

only too aware that the people who are trafficked or denied basic freedoms are extremely vulnerable to global health risks and are sold and resold within rapidly spreading organized crime networks.

Most importantly, the TVPA codifies the so-called three P's: punishment for traffickers, protection of victims, and prevention. It further mandates an annual comprehensive and far-reaching governmental report by the office to monitor and combat trafficking in persons.

We are honored to welcome here Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, and we look forward to hearing from him very shortly.

In its TIP Report, the State Department promotes global awareness regarding human trafficking, develops country-specific strategies to help foreign governments to better tackle the problem of trafficking, and classifies their accomplishment or failures to adhere to minimum standards in a tier system.

Most notably, the report also includes a narrative about our efforts in the United States to combat trafficking, which is very different from any other human rights report mandated for the State Department.

The most recent reauthorization of the TVPA, the 2008 William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, added in Title IV, the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008, which required the Secretary of State to apply the standards of the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and creating a list of countries which have governmental armed forces or government-supported armed groups, including paramilitaries, militias, or civil defense forces that recruit and use child soldiers. Such countries, absent any significant efforts to remedy this determination or a national security waiver, are barred from receiving any military assistance or equipment under the Foreign Assistance Act or the Army's Export Control Act. This list will be published in the TIP report.

This reauthorization further strengthened existing tools and created new ones for the U.S. Government to use in combating the global problem of human trafficking and included provisions to increase public/private partnerships to fight human trafficking, protect vulnerable nonimmigrant visa applicants and children in the United States, and toughen penalties for those who profit from the enslavement of men, women, and children.

The Department of State has also shown a strong commitment to preventing the abuse of nonimmigrant visa applicants, including temporary guest workers and students coming to the U.S. Among others, the Department has created an information pamphlet that has been translated and widely distributed to embassies around the world and engaged the foreign diplomatic corps in Washington about the seriousness of domestic worker abuse, and I am eager to hear more about these initiatives.

Again, I want to thank all of our witnesses for being here.

I just want to conclude with one other statement here.

A few months ago, I was invited to the premiere in Boston of this movie called Playground, and it really opened my eyes to the seriousness of the issue of human trafficking here in the United States. To be honest with you -- and I guess I am kind of ashamed to admit this -- I had no idea how extensive the issue of human

trafficking was here in the United States. It was shocking, and at some point in the near future this Commission will sponsor a screening of that movie. But it was a jolt to me and a reminder that we have a lot of work to do.

With that, I am happy to yield to my distinguished co-chair of the Commission, who has also been a champion on trying to fight human trafficking here in the United States and around the world, the congressman from Virginia, Frank Wolf.

Cochairman WOLF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman; and let me thank Jim for having the hearing, too, and being the propellant to sort of force this thing back out again. And I want to also acknowledge Carolyn Maloney -- she has had a very tough time -- for her loss and not being here. I want to thank all the witnesses.

Nearly two centuries after heroes like William Wilberforce worked to abolish the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, the trade of human beings for purposes of sex or labor exploitation continues and, unfortunately, in some cases, actually flourishes. Human trafficking in modern day slavery is one of the most egregious human rights violations and one that people just sort of don't really focus on it. They just don't think about it. And, when they do, they think it is far over there, when sometimes it is right close to where they are.

The International Labor Organization estimates there are at least 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, commercial sex servitude at any given time. A majority are women and girls. Traffickers prey on the weakest and the most disenfranchised members of society, targeting vulnerable men, women, and children. Human traffickers often use deceptive ploys to trick, coerce, and win the trust and confidence of their potential victims. In many cases, victims are often trafficked across borders to live in foreign countries alone, far from the support networks of their families and friends. Victims of modern day slavery are bought and sold into the slave trade like objects, generating billions of dollars each year.

The trafficking of persons is truly an evil, evil pursuit; and we have an obligation, a duty, to combat modern day slavery wherever it occurs. It is not something that only happens, again, in distant countries. Having worked over the years with Polaris, it happens right here in Washington, D.C. There are Members of Congress who drive to work, some who live in the suburbs and some who live -- who go by places where there are people who are being involved in human trafficking.

So it isn't, again, far away, over there. Sometimes it is right here where we all work and live.

We work with local law enforcement. Some have been very good. Others, they just haven't seen it as very much of a problem. We have held conferences in my district to help educate young people about some of the new dangers and the potential risk of social networking sites such as Facebook and My Space. However, much remains to be done.

I want to also acknowledge, I want to applaud my colleague, Congressman Chris Smith. Chris has been a leader on this issue when no one else cared about it, no one else understood about it, no one else talked about it, and he just pursued it and pursued it and pursued it. I look forward to working with the Chairman and Mr. Smith and Carolyn Maloney and others.

And let me just say to the Ambassador, I never met you, but your model ought

to be John Miller. We have had people who are ambassadors down there in the Bush administration who were not very good. Miller came along and transformed, and I have a young person on my staff who used to work for Miller. I hope you will become the John Miller of the Obama administration, nothing short of that. You ought to be pursuing, dogging, pushing, advocating. You should be in every meeting the Secretary has, pushing and pushing, and also your colleagues at the Justice Department, too.

With that, I thank the chairman and yield back.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE FRANK WOLF, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF VIRGINIA AND COCHAIRMAN OF THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

I would like to thank all of our witnesses for being here today to discuss the important issue of human trafficking. Nearly two centuries after heroes like William Wilberforce worked to abolish the trans-Atlantic slave trade, the trade of human beings for purposes of sexual and labor exploitation continues.

Human trafficking, or modern day slavery, is one of the most egregious human rights violations of our time. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are at least 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, and commercial sex servitude at any given time. A majority of those trafficked continue to be women and girls. Traffickers prey on the weakest and most disenfranchised members of society, targeting vulnerable men, women and children. Human traffickers often use deceptive ploys to trick, coerce and win the trust and confidence of their potential victims. In many cases, victims are often trafficked across borders to live in a foreign country, alone, far from the support networks of their friends and family. Victims of modern day slavery are bought and sold into the slave trade, like objects, generating billions of dollars each year. The trafficking of persons is truly an evil pursuit and we have an obligation to combat modern-day slavery wherever it occurs.

Human trafficking is not something that only happens in distant places and foreign countries. It also happens right here, in the United States of America. In my own Congressional district in northern Virginia, I have no doubt that women are being held as sex slaves, or abused domestic servants in houses I drive by everyday on my way to the nation's capital. I have worked with local law enforcement to ensure that local traffickers are strongly prosecuted. I have also held conferences in my district to help educate young people about some of the new dangers and potential risks of social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace. However, much remains to be done.

I applaud my colleague Congressman Chris Smith who has been a leader in the Congress on this issue for many years now. I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman Smith and my other distinguished colleagues who are here today to combat this inhumane practice. Again, I would like to thank the witnesses for being here today and look forward to your testimony.

Cochairman McGOVERN. I would like to yield now to the gentleman from Louisiana Congressman Cao.

Mr. CAO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman; and you are absolutely right in saying that the issue of human trafficking is an international issue and that we have to pay attention to it.

But one of the countries that has been the most egregious in this area is Vietnam. The Vietnamese government actively engages in human trafficking through labor export companies, partly or wholly owned by the Ministry of Labor and other government agencies. And there have been a number of well-documented cases in which state-run and state-owned enterprises have misled workers from promising specific wages and working conditions only to require the workers to sign a very different contract immediately before leaving for their foreign destination. And when these workers protested the slavery like conditions in the foreign workplaces to which these Vietnamese state enterprises have sent them, the Ministry of Labor officials would travel from Hanoi to these places, far West Jordan and American Samoa, to threaten the trafficking victims with punishment under the laws of Vietnam if they do not cease their protest.

And the Vietnamese government also has security police in Vietnam that intimidates, harasses, and threatens family members who were repatriated and who filed petitions should they request investigations of the traffickers.

I believe that you were the prosecutor in one of the worst trafficking cases that ever happened on American soil, the case at the American Samoa -- at the Daewoosa plant. And I believe that there was a judgment that was issued by the American Samoan high courts holding the Vietnamese government liable and providing a judgment in the amount of \$3.5 million for the victims.

You know, we tout that we are a country that conforms to the rule of law, but we have not enforced this rule of law. It has been over 10 years and nothing, absolutely nothing, has been done to force Vietnam to pay on this judgment.

So I would like to hear from you today. What will the State Department do to enforce this judgment of one of the most egregious cases that happen on American soil and, two, whether or not we should put Vietnam back or we should put Vietnam into Tier 3.

It seems to me that it is about time that we stop providing lip service and to be actively engaged in trying to ensure that the issue of human trafficking is being addressed worldwide. I believe that our inactivity shows a sign of acquiescence to this problem; and it does not at all help, I believe, the international community in trying to fight this very serious problem.

With that, again, I would like to thank the chairman for holding this hearing. I would like to thank my two colleagues from the Republican Conference, Congressman Wolf and Congressman Smith. I know that they have been fighting this issue for a long time, and I just thank them for their hard work and for their dedication for the past almost nearly two decades of fighting this problem.

So, with that, I yield back.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you.

The gentleman from New Jersey has been a champion on this issue, Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, both co-chairs, for organizing this very important and timely hearing on one of the worse human rights abuses of our day, human trafficking. As the prime author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its first two reauthorizations in 2003 and 2005, I am all too familiar with the complexity and the enormity of this horrific crime that attacks the very dignity of the human person, especially its exploitation of women.

I also want to welcome our Ambassador Luis CdeBaca and thank him for his great work on behalf of combating this terrible crime and also point out that Ambassador Mark Lagon is here. Ambassador Lagon was perhaps the finest -- you know, John Miller did a great job, but Ambassador Lagon did an enormously important job and led our government at a very critical time.

And Frank Wolf is right. When we first set up the office, we had an administrator that did not do a very good job. Many of us called for her release, redeploy her somewhere. In came two extraordinarily effective members of the Bush team, and Ambassador Lagon I think did a great job.

There is much obviously that still needs to be done, but we have seen progress over the last 10 years. More than 100 countries now have criminal legislation prohibiting all forms of trafficking. An additional 65 countries have legislation criminalizing some aspects of human trafficking.

Since enactment of the TVPA, traffickers here and abroad are increasingly likely to face prosecution and conviction. Worldwide, in 2008, over 5,200 traffickers were prosecuted and almost 3,000 were convicted. Eighty-three countries have established a special anti-human trafficking police unit, and over 75 have developed a national action plan to address this form of modern-day slavery.

Criminal accountability is key to ensuring that trafficking is not a low-risk enterprise for organized crime or corrupt government officials, to ensuring that traffickers can no longer hurt their victims or recruit new victims.

Accountability is also critical within the international systems. The Trafficking in Persons office in the U.S. Department of State has played a pivotal role in many ways, not the least of which is the TIP report. The report brings to light each country's successes and failures in meeting the minimum standards for combating human trafficking. It also warns countries that have consistently failed to meet the minimum standards when those countries are about to be subjected to sanction.

Countries in the Tier 2 watchlist can only stay on the watchlist now for 2 years. That watchlist, which originally was to be, hopefully, a transition state to 2 or 1, unfortunately has become a parking lot; and thankfully the new legislation will mitigate that abuse even of our own tier system.

Vietnam, and I join Anh Cao in calling on you, Mr. Ambassador, in calling on the State Department to finally and long last designate Vietnam as a Tier 3 country. The evidence is absolutely compelling in the area of labor trafficking. According to Boat People SOS, since 2001, Vietnam has officially exported 700,000 Vietnamese nationals, and many more unofficially. Eighty thousand more are exported each year.

Many cases of labor trafficking have been featured in past and present TIP reports, but, unfortunately, the designation Tier 3 has eluded them. The time has come to stop playing games and put them on Tier 3.

Anh went through some of the cases like the Daewoosa case which you are intimately involved with and know about very well. They have in our face just said, we don't care; and there has been a backsliding in Vietnam on all kinds of issues.

Mr. Wolf was the prime sponsor of the International Religious Freedom Act. In a corollary way, a parallel way, they absolutely have to be put on CBC designation. They have abused people of all faiths, from the Buddhist to the Christian to other faiths. Of course, that is not your portfolio, Mr. Ambassador, but this country is in serious, serious decline when it comes to human rights.

Additionally, let me just also point out, I ask unanimous consent that additional information on Vietnam be made part of the record.

[The information follows in the appendix:]

Mr. SMITH. The report also contains a section on U.N. peacekeepers and sexual exploitation. Peacekeeping operations have a critical role to play in some of the most volatile areas of the world among vulnerable populations that have suffered extraordinary violence and human rights violations. Countries that contribute their personnel to this highly laudable undertaking are to be commended for doing so, but they must also accept the responsibility for ensuring that military personnel from their country do not exploit the population they are assigned to protect.

Following deeply troubling reports about key peacekeeping personnel engaging in trafficking in persons, I included provisions in the TVPA Reauthorization Act of 2005 to address this issue. I note parenthetically I also held four hearings, three of them focusing on the abuse of children, 13, 12, 11 years old, in the Democratic Republic of Congo by the peacekeepers.

I would point out as well that we have a situation right now where the OIOS personnel who are designated -- and I know I have shared this with you before, Mr. Ambassador; and I shared it with Ambassador Lagon as well -- they have redeployed the very people who are on the ground investigating these cases out of Goma to Nairobi. There is only one person in Goma now, which I think is outrageous, investigating these exploitations of little children.

Another provision we put into the bill requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress at least 15 days prior to a vote for a new or reauthorized peacekeeping mission that contains a description of the measures taken to prevent peacekeeping forces from trafficking in persons, exploiting victims; and you know the language is very, very explicit. I hope that that provision is adhered to, because many of these peacekeeping missions, including MONUC, come up for reauthorization; and, unfortunately, despite Kofi Annan's zero tolerance policy, there has been, as we heard in some of our hearings, zero compliance. Although I think it has improved marginally, it is still an outrage that so many children and young women are exploited by peacekeepers.

The Trafficking in Persons report also covers emerging and shifting global patterns in human trafficking. One item that I hope will be covered in this year's report is the 100 million missing girls from China and also many more from India as recently reported by the economists. I have been raising this issue for at least 20 years, the issue of sex selection abortion in China, where girls are picked out and exploited and killed simply because of their gender. Sex selection abortion, I say to my friends, is the worst human rights abuse ever. One hundred million missing girls -- and they are the ones we know about. That has become a magnet for human trafficking.

Every time I talk to one of the countries in the ASEAN region -- Vietnam, Malaysia, all the countries that are at least in proximity to China -- I say, watch out; there is a situation brewing where by 2020 40 million men in China will not be able to find wives because they have been killed by sex selection abortion, the cumulative impact of the one child per couple policy which has been absolutely aided and abetted by the U.N. population fund and many of the pro-abortion NGOs, including Planned Parenthood. They have lowered the numbers, without a doubt, in China, but they have created a dearth of little girls killed simply because of their gender.

I would ask my colleagues to read 2 weeks ago The Economist, hardly a right-of-center magazine. I read it every week. I think it has very fine articles. What happened to the 100 million baby girls? The nexus between that loss of females killed by forced abortion and trafficking is compelling and will only get worse.

And I ask you, Mr. Ambassador, to include a serious analysis of what this means to the trafficking issue. The nexus between the two I think is absolutely compelling.

And, finally, I just want to say we need to reach out and work even more with the NGOs in this country. We need to reach out and work with the faith-based organizations. I don't think we have done a very good job on that.

I am the Special Representative for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for Trafficking. My counterpart in the OSCE itself absolutely wants faith-based involvement precluded and siphoned off and kept out of the shelters.

I have been to shelters all over the world, from Lima, Peru, to Romania, to Russia, to Ethiopia, all over the world; and I can tell you where there is a faith-based -- including Goma -- where there is a faith-based component, the healing after this terrible crime of exploitation is very much enabled, the healing that is, when you have that faith-based. Regardless of the faith -- Christian, Muslim, Jewish -- there is something that is killed in women when they are trafficked that emotional and psychological work can help to repair.

But I would respectfully suggest I have found in the shelters I have visited without the faith-based component the restoration is inhibited or far less than what it could be. So I hope you will look at that as well.

Thank you.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE CHRIS SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND MEMBER OF THE TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. Chairman,

Good morning. My thanks to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for holding this timely hearing on one of the worst human rights abuses of our day—human trafficking. As the author of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its first two reauthorizations in 2003 and 2005, I am all too familiar with complexity and enormity of this crime that attacks the very dignity of the human being.

There is much that still needs to be done, but we have seen progress over the last 10 years. More than one hundred countries now have criminal legislation prohibiting all forms of trafficking, and an additional 65 countries have legislation criminalizing some aspects of human trafficking. Since enactment of the TVPA, traffickers here and abroad are increasingly likely to face prosecution and conviction. Worldwide in 2008, over 5,200 traffickers were prosecuted and almost 3,000 were convicted. Eighty-three countries have established a special anti-human trafficking police unit, and over 75 have developed a national action plan to address this form of modern day slavery. Criminal accountability is key to ensuring that trafficking is not a low risk enterprise for organized crime or corrupt government officials—to ensuring that traffickers can no longer hurt their victims or recruit new victims.

Accountability is also critical within the international systems. The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of State has played a pivotal role in many ways, not the least of which is the Trafficking in Persons report. The report brings to light each country's successes and failures in meeting the minimum standards for combating human trafficking. It also warns countries that have consistently failed to meet the minimum standards when those countries are about to be subject to sanction. Countries on the Tier 2 Watch List can only stay on the watch list for two years—for countries that were on the list in 2008, this is the last year of a grace period before they must move to Tier 2 or be dropped to Tier 3 and be subject to sanction.

Vietnam squarely belongs in Tier 3 because there is solid evidence that Vietnam is a source country for labor trafficking. According to Boat People SOS, Since 2001 Vietnam has officially exported 700,000 Vietnamese nationals and many more unofficially. Eighty thousand more are exported each year. Many cases of labor trafficking have been featured in past and present TIP reports, for instance:

- o The Daewoosa American Samoa case (early 1999)
- o The W&D Apparel case in Jordan (Feb 2008)
- o The Esquel Malaysia case (Mar 2008)
- o The Polar Twin Advance case (Jun 2008)
- o The Winbond case (Nov 2008)
- o The Sony EMCS case (Jan 2009)

We know that the Vietnamese government is involved in labor trafficking. Vietnam exports workers and domestic servants under its national policy to “eradicate hunger and reduce poverty.” Moreover, the most active labor export companies are fully or partially owned by the state. The Vietnamese government has sent delegations, which always include representatives of the labor export companies (traffickers), to destination countries (American Samoa, US, Jordan, Malaysia, etc.) to intimidate, threaten, and repatriate victims viewed as “trouble makers” because they spoke out, and force other victims back to work for the traffickers—in many instances the delegation told the workers to sign self-incriminating and false statements that left out all mention of the employer’s exploitation or beatings.

Additionally, the public security police in Vietnam has intimidated, harassed and threatened family members and repatriated victims who filed petitions to request investigation of the traffickers.

We have brought these violations to the attention of Vietnam. Vietnam has repeatedly lost lawsuits against them on labor trafficking. And their response? Complete refusal to pay judgments. Officials implicated in labor trafficking have been promoted. On March 8, 2008, the Committee on Ideology and Culture of the Vietnamese Communist Party banned all media coverage of labor trafficking cases. And the list just goes on. Vietnam defines failure to meet the minimum standards and it should be a Tier 3 country—complete with sanctions against it.

The report, due out in June, also contains a section on UN Peacekeepers and sexual exploitation. Peacekeeping operations have a critical role to play in some of the most volatile areas in the world, among vulnerable populations that have suffered extraordinary violence and human rights violations. Countries that contribute their personnel to this highly laudable undertaking are to be commended for doing so, but they must also accept responsibility for ensuring that military personnel from their country do not exploit the populations they are assigned to protect.

Following deeply troubling reports about peacekeeping personnel engaging in trafficking in persons, I included provisions in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 to address this issue. One provision amended the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking to include an assessment of measures that respective countries are taking to ensure that their nationals who are deployed abroad as part of a peacekeeping operation do not engage in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking in persons or exploit victims of such trafficking.

A second provision requires that the Secretary of State submit a report to Congress at least 15 days prior to a vote for a new or reauthorized peacekeeping mission that contains a description of measures taken to prevent peacekeeping forces from “trafficking in persons, exploiting victims of trafficking, or committing acts of sexual exploitation or abuse, and the measures in place to hold accountable any such individuals who engage in any such acts while participating in the peacekeeping mission.” One might question the compliance with this reporting mandate, both in terms of meeting the congressional intent of this statutory provision and in fulfilling the purpose for which it was implemented.

It is deeply disturbing that the problem of sexual exploitation and trafficking by peacekeeping personnel not only continues, but is growing worse. I learned of continuing problems when I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo and inquired about MONUC (United Nations Organization Mission in the DRC) two years ago. Not only were serious allegations begin made against peacekeeping soldiers, but the United Nations’ Office of Internal Oversight Services that is responsible for investigating those allegations was moving most of its personnel to Nairobi, Kenya – far from where it could most effectively fulfill its mandate.

MONUC is not the only mission where concerns about sexual exploitation apply. As a March 21, 2010 report by the Wall Street Journal points out, allegations of sex-related crimes against peacekeeping personnel in general increased last year by 12% (to a total of 55), and some of those allegations involved minors. Furthermore, countries of accused personnel only responded 14 times to a total of 82 requests from the U.N. for information about sexually related investigations or their outcomes. I will be interested to explore this serious issue with our witnesses to see what is being done and what more needs to be done to ensure that the global community truly has a “zero tolerance” policy with respect to human trafficking in peacekeeping operations.

The Trafficking in Person’s Report also covers “emerging [and] shifting global patterns in human trafficking.” One item that I hope will be covered in this year’s report is the 100 million girls missing from China and India, as recently reported on by The Economist. This devastating result of China’s one-child policy, lax abortion laws, cultural norms skewed to favor boys, and the availability of ultrasound imaging has meant that, “Within ten years, China faces the prospect of having the equivalent of the whole young male population of America, or almost twice that of Europe’s three largest countries, with little prospect of marriage, untethered to a home of their own and without the stake in society that marriage and children provide.” That is, China will have 30-40 million more young men than young women. This demographic catastrophe constitutes an emerging and shifting global pattern in human trafficking—it has a potential to cause the greatest trafficking problem the world has ever seen. We must begin now to mitigate the damage.

Many governments look to the United States for leadership on trafficking issues and they rely on us to help them develop the capacity they need, in both the public and private sectors, to disempower the traffickers and to care for the shattered victims. There is more we can and must do at home and abroad to stop trafficking in persons.

Less than a year ago, it was reported that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested three American men in Cambodia who were sexually exploiting young children.

These arrests are particularly disturbing because all three men had previously served prison time in the U.S. for sex crimes against minors and were registered sex offenders. We should have known when these men were traveling that they posed a high risk of harm to children in Cambodia, and we should have alerted Cambodian officials of that fact before these men arrived in that country.

News reports indicate that after their release from U.S. prisons, the men traveled to the most destitute areas of Cambodia. One bought a 13-year old boy from his parents for \$2 and a bag of rice and raped him five times. Another 75-year old man was convicted previously in California of molesting as many as 500 boys during camping trips. He traveled to Southeast Asia at least eight times and lured young boys with dollar bills to his home where he sexually assaulted them. The third man was caught molesting a 10-year old Vietnamese girl in a child brothel outside Phnom Penh.

Fortunately, due to the extraordinary work of ICE officials, the men were arrested before they could inflict further harm. But Cambodian children should not have had to suffer over the course of several years before these men were brought to justice. The information and technology were available to U.S. law enforcement officials to detect and report the potential danger. Tragically, the legislative mandate was missing to implement those measures that would have prevented the exploitation from occurring.

It is estimated that 1.8 million children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation around the world each year. This statistic, together with numerous similar reports of arrests of known sex offenders abroad, indicate that these Cambodian children are not the only ones being sexually exploited as a result of international sex offender travel. And it is imperative that we immediately start using the information and technology at our disposal to stop it.

Legislation that I am sponsoring, called the International Megan's Law, H.R. 1623, would accomplish this goal. It would provide our law enforcement with the legal framework to notify foreign countries when a known sex offender who poses a danger to children intends to travel to that country. The foreign country could then either monitor the activities of the sex offender or decide to prevent the individual from entering. The legislation also enhances current U.S. law that bans entry of known sex offenders into the U.S., as it motivates other countries to track and report on their child sex offenders who may attempt to travel to this country.

In the process of implementing this framework as well as other prevention measures, the clear message would be sent around the world that *sexually exploiting any child, anywhere, is unacceptable*.

That includes within the United States. The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, America's Prostituted Children by Shared Hope International details domestic child sex trafficking which it defined as the "commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders." The report estimates that at least 100,000 American minors are victimized in America each year—mostly teenage girls.

Clearly, we have much work to do here at home. I welcome the inclusion of a review of the United States in the Trafficking in Persons Report this year. We must educate every level of government and every police force—every community—to identify the victims who may be citizens of our own country; to prosecute the traffickers; to combat demand; and to provide protection, including access to services and shelter for the victims.

Our trafficking problems cannot be solved by the government alone. We rely on informed citizens who care about what happens in their places of work, the communities, and their neighborhoods—people who are willing to take the initiative and do what they can to prevent and end trafficking, people like those sitting on our third panel this morning. I look forward to hearing from all of our witnesses.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you.

I would like to yield to the gentlelady from Illinois, the Honorable Jan Schakowsky.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think it is really important to note the bipartisan nature of support for this issue, and I want to thank all of my colleagues who have been so active in bringing this issue to light and to passing legislation.

I co-chair the Caucus on Women's Issues in the House of Representatives. There is a Republican and a Democratic co-chair. And all of us in the Women's Caucus see ourselves as part of an international sisterhood very concerned about this issue.

And while I think it was Representative Wolf and perhaps Representative Smith as well raised the issue of laws that have been passed in other countries -- and that is a very important step, no question about it -- that it is the implementation of those laws that we need to work on. And it was also pointed out, and that goes to the United States as well, that we have to make sure that we aren't involved in any way in trafficking.

But let me also say that this is indicative of a much larger problem of the low status of women in many places around the world where women are often viewed as more expendable than animals in families and in communities. It is not only selective abortion, but we also find that girl babies are often not taken care of to the same degree as male children are, that they are left to die in many places. Also, contributing to what Representative Smith quite accurately points out as missing girls around the world.

I look forward to this testimony and, beyond that, implementing many of the things that have been talked about here in the United States, because I think we can play an even stronger leadership role than we have in the past.

I just want to recommend for anyone who hasn't read *Half the Sky*, Nicholas Kristof and his wife wrote an excellent book that I think really lays out the problems of women and trafficking around the world.

Again, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this hearing. Thank you -- or co-chair, I guess.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Mr. Pitts of Pennsylvania.

Mr. PITTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for holding this hearing on such a critical issue facing our world today.

The issue of trafficking in persons touches every nation around the world, whether as a country of origin, transit destination or all of the above. Reports suggest that trafficking in persons is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the world. Those who traffic in drugs and weapons are increasingly turning to trafficking in persons. Criminals sell drugs and then have to make more. Criminals sell weapons and have to acquire more. But a person can be sold over and over and over again.

As many of you know, the U.S. Government estimates regarding trafficking range from around 800,000 individuals trafficked across international borders each year, 80 percent of whom are women and girls and up to 50 percent who are minors, and between 14,500 and 17,500 individuals that are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Further, the International Labor Organization estimates that at any given time

there are approximately 12.3 million people around the world in forced labor or bonded labor, forced child labor, and sexual servitude.

Human trafficking has widespread ramifications for our world. Children are forced to serve as child soldiers in Burma and Uganda and as camel jockeys in the Gulf. In brothels in India and Thailand, children are forced to service up to 20 or more men a day. Women and children in conflict zones, particularly IDPs or refugees, are particularly at risk of being trafficked.

There are also reports that the same people who traffic humans for sex and labor slavery also are involved in the production and distribution of child pornography. Child pornographers have a virtual gold mine with all the children that are easy to kidnap. Once a person kidnaps a child that does not have a connection to a community that is able or willing to report his or her loss the trafficker has won the battle. This is another component of trafficking that our prevention strategy must address.

It is estimated that organized crime rings make between \$7 billion to \$9 billion per year, with some even saying \$17 billion a year, trafficking in persons.

The strategy to combat human trafficking must be multi-faceted. Anti-trafficking laws must be enacted and strongly enforced. Traffickers at all levels must be prosecuted and punished. Victims must receive shelter and rehabilitation services. Law enforcement personnel must be trained to deal with traffickers and victims. Anti-corruption campaigns must be initiated. Criminals accounts must be frozen. And that is just a start to what needs to be done. It is critical that experts in all these fields combine their resources and coordinate their efforts.

We must also work to combat the demand side of this serious issue. It is the demand that drives this lucrative moneymaking trade, and if we truly want to eradicate human trafficking we must reduce the demand for it.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our witnesses. Thank you to each of you for your courage, for your leadership. We look forward to hearing from you.

I thank you and yield back.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you very much.

I, too, want to also recognize another former trafficking persons ambassador, Mark Lagon, who is here; and we appreciate your work. He has also enjoyed the respect of both parties.

And, Ambassador CdeBaca, we want to welcome you here.

As a brief introduction, in May of 2009, the Ambassador was appointed by President Obama to coordinate U.S. Government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery. He serves as a senior advisor to the Secretary and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance, and advocates for an end to modern slavery. He was a former Hill staffer, too; and we welcome you back.

I just also just want to say, I mentioned at the beginning that I had seen this movie entitled Playground, and we are talking about human trafficking oftentimes as if it is something that is overseas and not here. I was shocked to the extent that it is here in this country. So it is not just a problem in Vietnam or Cambodia or in other

countries. It is a problem here in the United States that is growing, and we need to figure out a coordinated way not only to deal with it overseas but also to deal with it here in the United States.

With that, Ambassador CdeBaca, we want to welcome you and look forward to your testimony.

STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR LUIS CDEBACA, OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. CdeBACA. Thank you Co-Chairman McGovern and Co-Chairman Wolf for holding the hearing. I apologize for the delay of me getting in through the scrum at the door.

Before I start on the testimony, I do want to take a point of personal privilege and thank everyone on the panel.

Back in the 1990s, when I was a young prosecutor at the Civil Rights Division, I think there was one year when I had every trafficking case that was being prosecuted in the United States on my docket. And because of Chris Smith, Frank Wolf, Sam Gejdenson on the Senate side, heroes like Paul Wellstone, no longer do we have a situation in the United States where one individual person either has to shoulder the responsibility or have all of our eggs in that one basket. Now we have an infrastructure, we have a law, we have something that we can point to around the world that shows what the United States is doing, and I don't think we can ever go back, and I think that is a good thing. So I want to thank members of the Commission personally for that as well.

But I am not here simply on my personal behalf today. I am here to provide an update to the Commission on behalf of the Obama administration about our global efforts against modern slavery.

Today is the International Day to Remember the Victims of Slavery and the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade. It has now been over 200 years since Congress acted to make that trade legal and almost 150 years since slavery and involuntary servitude were abolished once and for all in the United States. And yet this day, in 2010, we are still combating this scourge.

It is clear that emancipation was a living promise that needs to be delivered upon each and every day at home and abroad. As the President said in his speech in Tokyo, we have to act so that, for instance, girls are valued not for their bodies but for their potential.

Ten years have passed since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and ten years have passed since the United Nations first promulgated the Palermo Protocol. The 137 country parties is a good start, but we are encouraging the rest of the world to ratify. Because this "three p" paradigm, which places victim protection and prevention on parallel with prosecution, is so critically important.

There has been progress worldwide. Thousands of victims have been helped. Thousands of traffickers have been arrested and prosecuted. Neither of those would have happened without the legal and policy achievements of the last decade.

But we can and we must do more. Many countries who do have laws haven't

prosecuted anyone successfully. Many countries still detain victims, rather than serving them and trying to get them restored. So we are working hard to ensure that these policy and legal achievements are turned into actual results, freeing and restoring more people, prosecuting their abusers, and preventing this human rights abuse in the first place.

Today, we see more instances of human trafficking than ever before for myriad reasons, including greater public awareness and more partnerships between NGOs and law enforcement.

One of those, of course, is the Massachusetts Task Force, which you supported, Co-Chairman McGovern, where people like Karen McLaughlin and others build upon the gains of the domestic violence movement, things they started working on 25 years ago and now we realize is the path forward to deal with this type of battering relationship as well.

The spiking numbers reflect the trends that we saw in the wake of the domestic violence and the sexual violence movement, an increase in cases as awareness increases, as law enforcement starts recognizing these and more cases are brought to light. Yet we have to be honest in this assessment as well. The vast majority of these cases around the world go unreported due to the dark and shadowing nature of this crime.

As old as this practice may be, the criminals are certainly looking for new tools, new ways to commit these crimes; and we have to look for new ways to apprehend them, new models of law enforcement, new models of prevention, and new models of intelligence gathering and analysis.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking is partnering with nongovernmental organizations at a higher rate than ever before by funding and supporting on-the-ground trafficking efforts. Even with the \$20 million or so that we have in annual funds dedicated to efforts, we are only able to fund a fraction of the requests that we receive. This year, nearly \$280 million were requested. There are more requests, more worthy efforts, and more victims that we need to help in a situation where 90 percent of the grant requests have to go unfilled.

Today, I thank you for all of your stalwart support as we continue the important work of my predecessors. As Mr. Wolf said, the leadership of John Miller and Mark Lagon was key to getting this office set up and to get this priority squarely within our foreign policy. They always supported my work as a prosecutor when I was on the Hill; and, as I said in my confirmation, I am proud to be able to continue their work and to walk in their footsteps.

We are trying to stretch that grant budget through very targeted programs that put our money as close to the problem as possible, really at the tip of the spear, if you will. I am trying to shift our funding patterns so that we can respond quickly when necessary while also having a deliberative process so that we put evidence-based peer review projects out into the field, and we are starting to see the results from that.

For instance, in Haiti, in the aftermath of the earthquake, we were able to act swiftly and expedite monies to fund efforts to improve child protection and lower the risk of exploitation during this natural disaster. There was a day a few weeks after the earthquake where I was surprised to find out that of the, at that point, I think \$400 million or so that had gone to the island, all but \$1.5 million of that was through

USAID. My office was the only State Department office that was able to get money on the ground quickly.

I think that is because of not only the expertise that we have built up, the people we have working in the field, but also the NGO partners that we have, the folks who had already been working in Haiti, other organizations, partner organizations, that we have been working with over the last 10 years who were able to redeploy quickly. So, as a result, we were able to get social workers posted at the borders, begin the hard work of child identification and start to rebuild the infrastructure of the child protection system that, as our last year's report shows, was clearly lacking even before the earthquake.

The rest of the problem in Haiti was a crisis the day of the earthquake, before it ever happened, and has intensified; and we will be spending a lot of time and effort in Haiti over the coming year.

In addition to these types of efforts, we are also working to combat slavery through the annual Trafficking in Persons report, as required by the TVPA. In February, we released our 2010 interim assessment as directed by law, a semi-annual update on the countries that received the Tier 2 watchlist ranking in last year's report or who had moved up a tier in 2008 to 2009.

For the tier-ranking determinations, for your information as well as the 2010 interim assessment, this is a good opportunity to look at the progress made by the countries, as well as to gauge the work remaining.

What we have seen is that the majority of the 55 countries covered in the interim assessment showed some progress since the release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons report, an overall positive trend. Fifteen of these countries, however, have shown minimal or negligible progress since June of 2009, and it is those countries that bear a very careful analysis.

It is important to know that we are currently compiling the reporting for the 2009 Trafficking in Persons report to be released in June, and we will be happy to update the Commission on the contents of the report as we near its release.

The countries in the interim assessment, which as I stated is based on last year's rankings, range in their ability to combat trafficking in persons. Some countries have access to vast resources, yet are stagnant in their efforts to combat human trafficking. Others with few resources are making impressive gains against this terrible crime.

We are committing to strengthening our partnerships to combat trafficking persons with all of the nations who will work with us on this issue; and, at the end of the day, it seems that it is not resources, it is political will that is necessary, the necessary element to make tangible progress. The action plans, the dedicated units, the new laws, all of those can only work if governments hold people accountable for enforcing these things.

And it will take political will here in the United States as well to improve our efforts against human trafficking. In the last year, we have seen a whole of government commitment across the Obama administration in tackling this scourge; and I think that one of the things that you will see that hopefully makes a difference in this administration is that, under the leadership of Secretary Clinton, the office will be ranking the United States for the first time in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons

report, the same minimum standards outlined by Congress and by which we rank the foreign countries. We must acknowledge to foreign governments that human trafficking exists everywhere, including the United States.

As the Chair of the senior policy operating group which coordinates our whole-of-government approach, it is necessary to note the interagency cooperation in reporting for the U.S. ranking. This is not simply the State Department finger-wagging at other Cabinet agencies. Just as when we look at other governments, we spread out, our embassy folks spread out across the government to get the data; and that is what we are doing right now, working with our partners at all of the other Cabinet agencies to get that snapshot, just as we would with any other country.

As Secretary Clinton has rightly said, human rights are universal but their experience is local, and so that is why we are committed to holding ourselves to the same standard as these other countries. For at the end of the day, whether a trafficking victim is a U.S. citizen child under the control of a pimp, a worker in a field or a factory, or a woman trapped in domestic service or a closed brothel, we have to find them here in the United States, we have to help them, and we have to share our experience in doing that with the rest of the world.

Including the United States in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report is not the only thing that we are doing at the State Department. Partnering with the Office of the Chief of Protocol we have made marked improvements to ensure that domestic workers for diplomatic personnel are properly paid, safeguarded from exploitation, and fully aware of their rights while in the United States.

Yesterday, I agreed with the new head of the trafficking office at the OSCE to partner on trying to make that a global priority, certainly in the OSCE countries, the notion that domestic servants, especially those who follow to join a diplomat, are particularly vulnerable; and we have to look at that. And that is something that I will be looking to Representative Smith and other members of the Helsinki Commission to make that a reality. That is hot off the presses, so you are hearing it here first.

We are also working on key preventative efforts to address demand on both for sex and for the cheap labor that the traffickers so often rush to supply through violence and coercion. Working with the business community to look at supply chains, the root causes, what it is that our policies and our companies are doing in some of these countries that can make worker exploitation a thing of the past.

We have met with technology industry leaders to see how their product can be free from the taint of trafficking, and their problem is manifold. The taint could be in the hardware or the software. Both the sex trafficker who gets clients on the social networking sites taints their supply chain. The slave mine to precious metals that make cell phones and computers work in the first place taints the supply chain, and I think that that is one of the things that we are looking at. We want to try to harness the power of corporate America and harness the power of the business community to really go after demand in some new and innovative ways.

As evidenced by these brief examples of our work, it is clear that this has crosscutting implications. It affects our agriculture, economic trade, security, intelligence, domestic, and foreign policies, to name a few. It is a civil rights issue. It is a human rights law enforcement imperative. That is not necessarily something that

you hear very much about, the notion that human rights and law enforcement go hand in hand.

So much of the work that the Commission does, critical work, ends up being looking at abuses by law enforcement against their citizens. I would submit on behalf of the administration that we have a new way to look at this, a way that started in the Clinton administration, was continued and intensified by the Bush administration, and that we are proud to take up the oath, which is that you can harness law enforcement to enforce the civil rights and human rights of people. It is not something that a lot of countries are used to hearing or thinking about, but we are going to be all over the world talking about that. At the end of the day, it is the only way that we can make some of these differences that we are trying to do.

That brings us to today, 202 years after this body started us on the journey by passing the first American human rights law, the Slave Trade Act. We commit ourselves to do what the President called for, to acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era and to recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade.

I thank you again for holding the hearing today. We look forward to working with all of you, and I welcome your questions.

[The statement of Mr. CdeBaca follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF LUIS CDEBACA

**Human Trafficking: International and National Implications
Opening Statement of Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca
to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
(As Prepared)
March 25, 2010**

Good morning and thank you Co-Chairman McGovern and Co-Chairman Wolf for holding this hearing today on such a far-reaching and important issue: human trafficking.

I am pleased today to provide an update to the Commission on the Obama Administration's global efforts against modern slavery and I look forward to fielding your questions.

Today is the International Day to Remember the Victims of Slavery and the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade. And yet, in this day and age, in the year 2010, we are still combating a phenomenon that has plagued cultures, communities, and countries since the beginning of time. Ten years have passed since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was signed into law by President Clinton. It has also been a decade since the United Nations negotiated the Palermo Protocol, which clearly defines human trafficking on the international stage, and has been adopted by 137 countries.

Thousands of victims have been helped; thousands of traffickers have been arrested and prosecuted; neither of which would have come about without the legal and policy achievements of the last decade.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is working hard to ensure that the policy and legal achievements of the last 10 years are turned into actual results: freeing more people from the shackles of modern slavery and preventing this human rights abuse in the first place.

Today we are seeing more incidences of human trafficking than ever before for a myriad of reasons, including greater public awareness and more cooperation between government, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement. The spike in these numbers reflects trends that we saw in the wake of the domestic violence movement and the hate crimes movement – as awareness increases, more cases are brought to light. Yet, we must be honest in this assessment as well; there are still thousands, if not millions, of cases not reported due to the dark and shadowy nature of this crime. As old as the practice of slavery may be, the criminals that bind these people's hopes by force, fraud, and coercion are looking for new ways to commit these crimes. We are looking for new ways to apprehend them.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is partnering with more non-governmental organizations than ever before by funding and supporting on-the-ground anti-trafficking efforts. Even with the \$20 million in annual funds dedicated to these efforts, we are only able to fund a fraction of the requests we receive, as nearly \$289 million was requested in Fiscal Year

2010. There are more requests, more worthy efforts, and more victims that we need to help. Today, I humbly ask for your help and support so that we may continue to make progress against modern slavery.

In the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake, the Office was able to act swiftly and expedite monies to fund efforts to improve child protection and lower the risk of exploitation during this natural disaster. The Office was already engaged in anti-trafficking efforts in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic prior to the earthquake and now we are looking at ways to build on and improve those programs. The earthquake in Haiti also highlighted an important notion: anti-trafficking efforts must be implemented in every disaster-response plan – both international and domestic – to ensure that men, women, and children are not preyed upon and exploited. Your help and support in Congress to ensure these standards is vital to ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable populations in a time of crisis.

In addition to the Office's programmatic efforts, we are also working to combat modern slavery through the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, as required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

In February, the Office released its 2010 interim assessment, which as directed by law, is a semi-annual update on those countries who received a Tier Two Watch List ranking in the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report or who moved up a tier from the 2008 to the 2009 Report. I offer the tier ranking definitions for your information as well as the 2010 interim assessment. The semi-annual assessment is an opportunity to look at the progress made by those countries as well as gauge the work still remaining. The majority of the 55 countries covered in this assessment showed some progress since the release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report – an overall positive trend. Fifteen of these countries, however, have shown minimal or negligible progress since June 2009 and it is these countries that bear close analysis. It is important to note that the Office is currently compiling the reporting for the 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, which is slated to be released in June. The Office will be happy to update the Commission on its contents as we near the release.

Countries included in the interim assessment, which as I stated are based on the previous year's rankings, range in their ability to combat trafficking in persons. We see some countries, which have access to vast resources, stagnate in their efforts to combat human trafficking while others with few resources make impressive gains against this terrible crime. The Department of State is committed to strengthening our partnerships to combat trafficking in persons with all nations who wish to work with us on this issue. It is clear that political will is the necessary element to make tangible progress against this global scourge.

And, it will take political will here in the United States to improve our efforts against human trafficking. In the last year, we have seen a 'whole of government' commitment under the Obama Administration in tackling this scourge. Under the leadership of Secretary Clinton, the Office will rank the United States for the first time in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report. This reporting will be based on the same minimum standards outlined in the TVPA and by which we rank foreign countries. We must acknowledge to foreign governments that human trafficking exists everywhere, including the United States. As chair of the Senior Policy Operating Group, which coordinates the Obama Administration's 'whole of government approach' to anti-trafficking efforts and policy, it is necessary to note the interagency cooperation in reporting for the U.S. ranking. As Secretary Clinton rightly said, "Human rights are universal, but their experience is local. This is why we are committed to holding everyone to the same standard, including ourselves."

Including the United States in the 2010 Trafficking in Persons report is not the only major initiative undertaken by the Office this year. Partnering with the United States' Office of the Chief of Protocol we have made marked improvements to ensure that domestic workers for diplomatic personnel are properly paid, safeguarded from exploitation, and are fully aware of their rights while in the United States. The Office is also working on a key preventive effort with partners in the business community to rid product supply chains of modern slavery. It is essential to our overall efforts to ensure that we reach the root causes and tracing these supply lines are key components to lowering the incidence of worker exploitation.

Today, I have shared information on the Obama Administration's global efforts on a host of levels. As evidenced by our work in Haiti, with the interim assessment and annual report, the first-ever U.S. ranking, improved domestic worker safeguards, and supply chain efforts it is quite clear that human trafficking has cross-cutting implications. It affects our agricultural, economic, trade, security, domestic, and foreign policies to name a few.

Yet, the greatest implication is the human one. It is through the example of people like Tom Lantos, who so bravely pursued the path to freedom during the Holocaust, and turned his victim status into survivor status through his life's work. His story is the story of human trafficking victims today – it is through bravery, courage, and hope that these victims become survivors and live a life built on freedom.

His example is in keeping with what the President called us to do in January: to "acknowledge that forms of slavery still exist in the modern era, and ... recommit ourselves to stopping the human traffickers who ply this horrific trade."

Thank you again for holding this hearing today. The Department looks forward to working with you and I welcome your questions.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you very much for that testimony. I am going to first yield to my colleague, Frank Wolf.

Cochairman WOLF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you for your testimony. Clearly, with your background, you are well suited for the job.

I have just three basic questions: One, what are the worst countries? Your report on page 2, where you said 15 of these countries have shown minimal or negligible, what are the worst countries?

Mr. CdeBACA. Well, within those 15, I don't think that we can necessarily look at them against each other. We are looking at them compared to themselves. And that is in the interim report that we have sent up to you.

Cochairman WOLF. Well, from your sense, what do you think are the three worst countries?

Mr. CdeBACA. You know, I have to say I haven't ranked individual countries that way, and I would hate to try to do it on the fly like this.

I think that what we have seen is even in some of the countries that have historically been the worst there is starting to be movement. You know, historically, we have also had Syria on Tier 3, for instance. Suddenly, they have opened a shelter, and they have passed a law in the last year. So I think that for us we are trying very hard to make sure that we don't necessarily rank all 196 countries in numerical order. Rather, we have them in the different tiers, and then we go to try to engage with them so we can get them to move up.

Cochairman WOLF. Well, my request would be -- well, how is Vietnam doing?

Mr. CdeBACA. Vietnam is interesting. And I think that one of the things that we have seen is that there is the beginning of a little bit of movement on the part of Vietnam with the International Organization for Migration, for instance. We are very concerned about the number of Vietnamese, not just laborers who are exported through the Vietnamese parastatal export companies that Mr. Cao was talking about, but also Vietnamese folks in Vietnam, Vietnamese folks in neighboring countries were concerned about the opening of the highway into Laos and the fact that it will probably open up new trafficking routes. Vietnam has historically been a pretty tough nut to crack as far as law enforcement cooperation with them.

Cochairman WOLF. But I don't understand why it is. We have given them most-favored-nation trading status. I did not support that. Our Embassy has been, I think, pretty much a failure. The Ambassador almost never speaks out on this issue. And I think it was equally so in the Bush administration as it is in this administration.

My request would be that you pick three countries and you focus like a laser beam on those three countries and you make them an example. Because if you sort of dilute this thing worldwide, as you could probably take an unlimited amount of funding, but the message gets out. And I would sense, based on the trade issue, the number of American businessmen that go back and forth back and forth, Vietnam ought to be one of them. And we ought to go after them like a laser beam, prosecute, push, put them on that tier increase also with regard to trade sanctions, but everything and anything that we possibly can do. Then we should also fine the country in another area.

Maybe -- you know, you tell us. I have some ideas, but I am not going to be the one to make it.

But I would urge that you pick at least two or three and put your emphasis on there so that they really, really know that, by putting on that list, there is a price to pay and that you are willing to take your persecutory background and go after it.

The other area, and I know this is not completely yours, but you are the chairman of -- what are the two or three worst areas here in the United States?

Mr. CdeBACA. Market segments or geographic?

Cochairman WOLF. Well, however you want to put it.

I mean, if somebody said tell me where you think this is the biggest problem in the United States, what are the three areas you think have the biggest problem?

Mr. CdeBACA. I think, based on what we have seen -- and this is reflected in the Attorney General's report to Congress last year and the funding of the different task forces and I think also by the founding of Governor Crist's task force, we continue to see a lot of activity in Florida; and I think that there is a lot of work that can be done there.

It is a place where, as the Florida task force itself out of Tallahassee has reported, it is kind of the perfect storm of sex trafficking. There was arrests of sex traffickers who had come to take advantage of the Super Bowl being in Florida this year. I think a girl had been brought all the way from Hawaii perhaps.

The continued abuses in the field, the international nature of the Miami area -- we see domestic servant cases. We are concerned about spillover effect from the Haiti situation. We have already seen over the last few years several cases done with children in Miami.

Cochairman WOLF. Okay. So Florida is one.

Mr. CdeBACA. I think Florida certainly is one.

Cochairman WOLF. Give me two others. The Justice Department comes before my sub for appropriations, and I am going to kind of take your information and ask them to focus extensively, aggressively, and ask Director Mueller with regard to the FBI.

Who are the other two.

Mr. CdeBACA. I think if I am going to use three I would like to not simply do all of them as geographic aspects. I think that one of the things that we also see out there across the Obama administration that we are concerned about is that notion of linking up efforts between the U.S. attorneys offices and their State and local partners.

Cochairman WOLF. But are we sure -- I don't sense that this is a priority of the U.S. Attorneys. Some it is. Others it is sort of not -- it doesn't resonate. I don't know if the Attorney General -- has the Attorney General sent out anything saying this is an absolute mandatory priority of this administration? Do you know if that has been done?

Mr. CdeBACA. I don't know if that has been done, but I know the new head of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, Steve Dettelbach, who is my predecessor as the involuntary servitude and slavery coordinator, he prosecuted some of the largest trafficking cases in the 1990s; and I know that this is a priority for him. So he is going to be bringing the other U.S. Attorneys together.

We saw just the other day in Arizona the new U.S. Attorney there just opened a new unit to do civil rights prosecutions, including the human trafficking cases.

Cochairman WOLF. Well, we are going to check. And what we will do, we will write the U.S. Attorneys.

But I would like to get that second and third location. I mean, because then I will call that U.S. Attorney from that area and call the SAC in charge of the FBI in that area and say, I just left a hearing today, and they said your area is a big, big problem. I am going to do a letter to Governor Crist, do a letter to Bill McCollum, who is running for governor on the other side, and say, you have got a problem in River City. We are going to write the SACs now in charge of every FBI office in Florida.

I just need the other two. Is it Washington, D.C.? I think this would be a good area to focus, because the FBI is here, the DEA is here, the FBI is here, the ATF is here, and you are here to kind of go into Washington, D.C. There are people being exploited who are connected to the World Bank and everything else, in the embassy. Should this be an area?

Mr. CdeBACA. I think there is an opportunity here in the D.C. area.

Cochairman WOLF. So this is number two.

What would be the third area.

Mr. CdeBACA. Let me tell you --

Cochairman WOLF. I just want to end, because I don't want to take more time.

Mr. CdeBACA. Let me tell you why I think it is an opportunity. I think that we have got -- Doug Gansler in Maryland is the Co-Chair of the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force; and he is somebody, if we do the entire region, we can probably then tap into the entire Attorney Generals. It is a growing effort on the part of the Attorney Generals nationwide, and we want to support that.

The other place that I think that there is a real opportunity is in Texas. We see real leadership from the Attorney General. The new U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Texas, Sarah Saldana, was a line prosecutor and was prosecuting these cases, so she has got a personal stake in this. And I think that with the founding of the Texas task force, Chris Rochelle, one of the great line deputies on this from Bexar County, Texas, there is some real successes that can be had down there.

Cochairman WOLF. If you can have somebody from your office come up and meet with my office, meet with Elizabeth or Elise Bauer, who worked at the tip-off, just to give us those names and then we will then pursue on three.

And then back on the international, Vietnam -- I mean, Vietnam, we should almost embarrass any American company that does business in Vietnam if they continue to do business knowing what is going on. Vietnam ought to be one.

I hope you could give us by the time it comes out, I think in June you said, the other of the two.

And, with that, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the hearing.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you.

If I can just follow up on what Frank was talking about. I think what we are trying to figure out is what should we be doing that we are not doing to have a better impact on this issue. Here in the United States we know that there are areas,

including the Nation's Capital, where this is a problem. But it is a lot more complicated than us simply saying, get rid of it all, crack down on it all.

One of the things I was -- going back to that movie I saw and talking to other people that were on that movie Playground, I mean, part of it is, you know, we treat sometimes the women who have been used for sex trafficking as criminals. So we approach this in a way that they are the bad people, and we go after them, but it doesn't always necessarily flow to the person who is doing the job.

I guess, you know, it kind of takes a whole different mind-set with law enforcement, at least domestically, on how to approach this. I don't know whether there is kind of a national policy that instructs our law enforcement people around the country to deal with this differently than simply just, you know, we found a woman who was involved in prostitution, and we arrested her and charged her, and she is in jail or she is fined or whatever.

I mean, how do we approach this differently so we are not going after just the victims, that we are actually trying to protect the victims and go after the people who are responsible for the crime?

Mr. CdeBACA. I think one of the things that we need to do that the Bush administration started and that we are continuing is to encourage the States to pass their own laws. This is something we have seen in hate crimes and other forms of civil rights abuses, is that there is no way that the Federal Government can do all of the cases.

There is 17,000 odd police forces out there, only a few of whom actually report to the Attorney General. He and Secretary Napolitano can issue an edict to the ICE officers or to the FBI agents, but that is not going to necessarily change what happens when a local police officer rolls up on the scene, thinks that he sees a brothel and doesn't ask the question.

Or, as I had in a case that I prosecuted, a local police officer that saw a woman had run away, a domestic servant, and didn't understand that she was running away from slavery, put her in the back of the car and drove her back and gave her back to the boss. She concluded that her master was so powerful that they had sent the police after her, and that was rational for her to think that.

I think the way that we solve that is, once it is a State case and it is being trained in each of the State police academies, then it is the business of all of the law enforcement in the United States. So working with the District Attorneys Association and the IACP, the Chiefs of Police, we are actually going to be trying to get that new model out there.

Mr. CdeBACA. But we are trying to take some money from the Byrne grant program. We are trying to put it out there.

I think that the 42 task forces that we have seen -- and I will leave this for the Justice Department. It is more in their wheelhouse. Those 42 task forces have done a tremendous amount of work kind of on a shoestring that Mr. Wolf and others have provided for them through the appropriations process.

Cochairman McGOVERN. That is good.

I guess what we all want to make clear here is that I think we can be helpful in the effort to persuade States to make some changes in terms of funding. I think we have a bipartisan group up here. I think we can be helpful if there is a shortage of

funding in a particular area that you think might be more useful for us to get more money into to better combat this.

I think what you have here is a panel that wants to work very closely with you and the administration to make here in the United States that we are getting this right. I mean, I have heard of cases of sort of domestic servitude where a woman is here in an undocumented status from another country and left a very violent and tumultuous situation in her home country and is in a terrible situation here and is constantly threatened and if you come forward and you complain you are going to be sent back. So there is all these kind of complications that I know make it very difficult, this one-glove-fits-all attitude. But we here want to be helpful in supporting your work.

The other thing is, again, on the international side, every country is different and every country responds to pressure differently and some pressures work and some pressures don't. I think it is helpful for us to know where the most effective pressure points are.

I don't know what the most effective pressure point of Vietnam is. But clearly we have some influence there and in other countries.

Sometimes when you do a press conference and make a big deal of it, it backfires. Sometimes it helps. Sometimes it is a direct conversation between the Secretary of State and the leader of another country or it is a communication from the President. But we want to work with you to kind of back up whatever the most effective pressure is, and so please utilize us in any way you think is appropriate. I mean, our goal here is to try to eliminate this problem and put people in jail who are responsible for it and have countries that uphold this kind of minimum standard of human rights. So I just make that offer to you.

Mr. CdeBACA. Indeed.

I know a number of members have questions or comments, but I would like to respond to that very briefly.

I think one of the things that we have seen, and again it is kind of -- there is a tendency for all of us in something that is such an emergency as people being held in servitude to want to spend all of our money and all of our attention on getting through the door, getting them out, and helping them. And one of the things that we have seen as far as the task forces are concerned is now that the Justice Department has been able to take some research money working with the folks at Northeastern who had done a lot of the cutting-edge work on the hate crimes back in the day, linking them up with the national hotline that the Polaris Project coordinates and being able to analyze the data from the task forces, from the hotline, really getting down to what are the trends, what are the patterns. That is not necessarily something that we have seen across government, whether in the intel community or within the research agenda.

Part of that is when we have this amount of money we want to spend it as much as possible on law enforcement training and victims' services, trying to get as close to the victim as possible. Thinking about what our research agenda is, thinking about what our intel agenda is, is something we can really look at, not just go out and execute, but we can go out and think about some of these other meta ways to go after this.

Cochairman McGOVERN. That is something that -- again, I am obsessed

with this film, because it shocked me when I saw it. But I did not realize how big of a problem human trafficking is here in the United States. And when I watched that film I was like, well, if the filmmaker can get into these places and film these people who are engaged in illegal acts, why can't we all just rush in there and arrest everybody who is responsible? I know it is more complicated than that it, but it was frustrating. They talked about how certain airports are well-known for human trafficking, where people can go in and purchase a woman with very little trouble. I mean -- and it is, how can that be in this country?

But I look forward to working with you and others to try to figure out how we can, on a Federal level, provide you the support and the local law enforcement the support and maybe persuade some of these States that they need to look at the way they approach this issue a little differently.

Anyway, I thank you for being here.

I yield to Mr. Cao.

Mr. CAO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am so angry right now that we waste so much of our time and energy on providing rights to terrorists who seek to destroy us, and we have this problem of genocide in China, we have the problem of women trafficking in the United States, we have the problem of human trafficking in Vietnam, and we have barely lifted a finger to address this issue. It seems to me we are only addressing issues that are politically expedient and not paying much attention to issues that concern humanity.

What are we doing as a country to address this serious problem of human trafficking, particularly to females being sex slaves? I was in Cambodia very recently, and it was appalling to me to see little children lined up all along the streets trying to find -- being forced to be sex slaves. What are we doing to address this issue?

Mr. CdeBACA. I think there are several things we can and are doing, and then I think there are some things that we can do more of. Something as simple as the President incorporating this into his major foreign policy speeches has had an effect. When talking to NGOs and to governments in Asia after his trip to Asia, talking to in NGOs and government actors in Africa after he raised it in a speech in the Parliament had a big effect on the countries in Africa to suddenly be hearing this, and it kind of came out of left field for some of the countries for the President to raise human trafficking. The fact that it would get that kind of level of attention. But then we have to come in behind that with activity and action.

So, for me, one of the things that we have been starting to talk with the ASEAN group as far as doing what the OAS is doing, putting together an action plan for the regional coordinating body. Not simply looking at the UNODC or others like that but really looking at a regional action plan so the countries in ASEAN, for instance, can know what they are supposed to be doing and what the baseline standards are.

I think one of the problems that we have seen, and it is heartbreaking to be in Cambodia and to see -- and, frankly, most of the child slaves, whether in the brothels or in other situations, according to some of the research that I have seen, are Vietnamese, whether it is Vietnamese ancestry Cambodians or whether it is people who come across from Vietnam; and to see that there is the beginning of kind of a

permanent underclass type of situation with this Vietnamese community in Vietnam -- I am sorry -- in Cambodia, I think shows the problem that we see all over Southeast Asia.

The folks over in eastern Malaysia, the shelters for the trafficking victims are largely filled with Vietnamese former victims; and I know that Tenaganita, one of the NGOs working with SOS Boat People, has been able to serve them. But it has been more on their own rather than because of what government is doing.

So I think that our ability to support them -- and we have got grant money out in the region, obviously -- but I also think that this notion that -- maybe pivoting off of Mr. Wolf's suggestion -- the notion of being able to come in and do some laser-like focus.

I know that Mr. Smith has a bill on that right now. I understand it is probably being introduced in the Senate today, and I think that there are some very good ideas about how we can really look at individual countries, go in and have those kind of agreements with those countries. We have to keep dealing with the other 190-odd countries when we do that, but, you know, really coming in with government, nongovernmental actors, training, service provision, everything going at once.

Mr. CAO. It has been over 10 years since there was a judgment issued by the American Samoa Court for \$3.5 million, and we have asked the State Department in the past year to enforce the judgment. Are we doing anything to enforce the \$3.5 million judgment, a case that you were personally involved in.

Mr. CdeBACA. I think we will be seeing this year as a year in which more gets done on that.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization in 2008 says that we should be looking at whether or not countries are punishing their actors for doing trafficking as part of what we look at in each year's report. And so, in our reporting on Vietnam this year, we are looking at what is it that isn't being done on behalf of the Vietnamese Government.

I have been in contact just within the last few weeks with the attorney for the workers, Virginia Sudbury. Part of it is we have to go back to square one and get more information again from the high court of American Samoa as to what was done with that judgment, how the judgment has been sought to be enforced by the workers' attorneys.

It is a civil judgment; it is not something that the United States Government obtained against the parastatal labor companies. But it is something that, since those are entities under the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on the one hand -- I think the other one was, if I remember right, it was under the tourism industry -- that is something that we have to get back into the saddle on that, and I am personally committed to doing that.

Given the length of time that has passed since the judgment was rendered and the apparent lack of a response on the part of the Vietnamese Government, we are going to be encouraging the Government of Vietnam to fulfill their responsibility and to give the workers their money.

Mr. CAO. What is the possibility of the State Department putting Vietnam into Tier 3?

Mr. CdeBACA. You know, I haven't seen the reporting on that yet. This is

the time of year when we get the cables in from posts and everybody starts going through them, making their initial recommendations. We work with the Embassy, we work with the regional bureaus, et cetera, to really pin down the tier ranking. And, not having seen the evidence yet come in from Vietnam, I think it would be premature for me to speculate as to exactly where they are going to end up on the list.

Mr. CAO. Thank you.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Can I ask just one question? The rating system, is it how much trafficking is going on in a country? Or is it the mechanisms in place to combat trafficking if it occurs? They put them on the list. Or both?

Mr. CdeBACA. It is both. But it is much less -- it is much less the first. One of the things that was --

Cochairman McGOVERN. So it is much less the amount of trafficking going on?

Mr. CdeBACA. One of the many critical things about the reauthorization in 2008 was that it took away a requirement that the United States demonstrate that there was a significant trafficking problem in a country before we could rank them. Because what was happening then is that there became a diplomatic dance in the run-up to the trafficking report coming out in which countries seemed to think that there was an incentive for them to deny that they had a trafficking problem and perhaps not even report on some of the cases.

By getting rid of that now, I think we are putting out a call to the countries of the world that indicate that, if you are a country, you need to tell us what you are going to do to deal with trafficking -- just like any country would need to be able to say what they are going to do if there were murders or rapes or domestic violence -- rather than saying, "We have proven that you have trafficking; now tell us what you are going to do about it." I think it is going to move us past that initial threshold.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Good.

Congresswoman Schakowsky?

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I want to just mention a few topics and then just ask one question.

First of all, in Haiti, the situation for women is just terrible right now, women and girls. A 2-year-old was raped in one of the camps. She has gonorrhea now. I mean, it is just unbelievable. So that is an issue.

Two, I think we should focus on D.C. in terms of enforcement because that is likely to create the maximum amount of exposure, I think, help to educate Members of Congress, and just generate lots of national press on it.

Number three, the issue of the women and girls becoming, themselves, the criminals. I have seen that in detention for girls who have been picked -- especially, Chinese young women who were picked up and ended up in Chicago. They didn't know where in the world they were. And the real criminals were the snakeheads or the traffickers. These girls were held in shackles, in jails, and then, I am sure, deported back to China. So we do need to have a new model there.

And the other point I just want to make is that, you know, we will be serious when these are issues that are included in our trade agreements for real, not as side issues or sidebars, but when we really make that a condition of dealing with other countries.

The question I want to ask that I hadn't thought about before -- I am on the Intelligence Committee. What is the role of the intelligence community? What should people who are concerned about this issue be pressing in the intelligence community regarding the trafficking of women and girls?

Mr. CdeBACA. I think one of the things that we have seen in the intel community is that, because this is only tertiary to the intelligence-gathering priorities -- and when I say "tertiary" --

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. It has never been discussed. That I can say about the Intelligence Committee. But it is just not on the agenda.

Mr. CdeBACA. Russian organized crime is one of the only things that is in the intelligence priorities that would cover this. And I --

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. What is?

Mr. CdeBACA. Russian organized crime is in the national intelligence priorities. I think that, as far as collection -- everything has to flow out of collection, and so, you know, looking at whether we can start prioritizing collection around this.

There are a lot of different things that we do, whether it is geospatial, looking at drought patterns in Central Asia. We have tremendous amounts of problems, as reflected in the report, over the last few years with children having to pick cotton in Central Asia with drought-related wife-selling in certain parts of South and Central Asia. Those are things that even geospatial work, looking at the effect of climate on these communities, could do.

But I think that there are other types of collection that could be done, as well. And I would be more than happy to talk to you --

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. We should talk about that. Thank you very much.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Mr. Smith?

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You know, in follow-up to that conversation about, you know, what should our calibrated responses be, the most prudent responses, the importance of the TIP Report is that it speaks truth to power. It pulls no punches.

And I just encourage you, with regards to the data calls that go out to the embassies -- and I know you know this, but Mr. Wolf and I were in China right before -- and this was during the Bush administration, and we were highly critical of the Bush administration for not raising human rights issues the way they ought to. Frankly, I believe there should be absolutely no partisanship when it comes to human rights. We can disagree on tax policy, health care policy, but when it comes to human rights, if we pull our punches because we are afraid of offending either political party, shame on us. And we do a grave disservice to all those languishing in laogais or in concentration camps or women who are being trafficked.

That said, I am very concerned about the data calls going out to Vietnam. Under the previous administration and under this one, we have not seen the kind of bright light being shone on human rights abuses across the board, including in trafficking.

It is, with all due respect, Mr. Ambassador, a no-brainer -- a no-brainer -- based on the clear, compelling labor-trafficking evidence that Vietnam is a Tier 3 country. In like manner, it is a no-brainer that China -- you know, just rereading the

China text of the TIP Report, it is an indictment of China.

The fact that even on -- and I held several hearings on this when I chaired the Human Rights Committee. The fact that even with regards to North Korean refugees, who have the courage to try to cross into China knowing the terrible consequences that they may face if they are returned to North Korea -- those women are trafficked.

I had a hearing right here -- it was in 2172 -- where we heard from women who had been trafficked. One woman went after her daughter who had been trafficked, so then she made her way into China, and then she and her other daughter, in search of the trafficked daughter, themselves were trafficked. And with tears they told their story. The Chinese violate the 1951 Refugee Act with impunity, especially and including as it relates to this modern-day slavery.

Added to that -- and I would ask you to speak -- you know, when the editors of Economist magazine, in their editorial entitled "Gendercide," talking about the worst violation against women's rights in all of human history, say, "Most obviously, China should scrap the one-child policy," I would ask you as a question, do you think China should scrap the one-child policy?

Secondly, there were lessons learned from Haiti. I remember going to Banda Aceh and Sri Lanka during the aftermath of the tsunami, and we learned lessons about how to protect children from -- especially children from being trafficked. And I hope we might speak to what was learned from Haiti, in terms of trafficking.

But I note with some concern -- and maybe this has been rectified -- that there was money taken away from a project in Niger, a Tier 3 country that has, according to the TIP Report, 8,800 to 43,000 Nigerians who live under conditions of traditional hereditary slavery.

Niger is one of the worst; obviously, it is a Tier 3, as it ought to be. But to take a project designed to mitigate slavery in Niger, with all of the other accounts that potentially could have been accessed, to me seems to be incredibly shortsighted -- I know it wasn't you, but incredibly shortsighted. And I hope that money has been returned and maybe with a little bonus to help fight and combat trafficking in Niger.

Added to that, I look at what I consider to be backsliding in Africa. You know, Nigeria and Mauritius are Tier 1 countries. And I have been to shelters in Lagos, for example. I have met with parliamentarians in Abuja on trafficking. I think they are taking it very seriously. They have doubled the number of prosecutions. They have done some very good things. But, frankly, their NAPTIP office is grossly underfunded. They need more money from us and from any other interested party. But we need to lift Nigeria, if they are indeed making a sustained progress, up.

I would have put them in Tier 2, frankly, because there is still so much that is not being done, but that is my call. But certainly not Tier 3. But Tier 1 maybe is a good thing.

There are seven countries in Africa on Tier 3; a dozen and a half on the watchlist that could easily be Tier 3 countries. There seems to be a serious backsliding there, and maybe you want to speak to that.

When Fiji is on Tier 3 and the People's Republic of China and Vietnam are not, I think we have a serious problem. Regardless of what the outcome would be -- and I know there is a fight inside the building. Our previous ambassadors have talked about that, you know, the regional bureaus, the ambassadors who have "clientitis,"

who would never speak an ill word about human rights.

I would hope -- and I know you are a fighter -- that you will fight tenaciously. And we will fight. Frankly, I will not be quiet and members of this panel will not be quiet because we are fed up, frankly, with countries that ought to be Tier 3 and ought to go to the penalty phase, not just admonishments, as a result of what they do to women and to girls and on labor traffic to men and women.

So, if you could speak to the reprogramming. Is that money going back to Niger?

On Vietnam, we have a fact sheet I will give to you -- I would ask unanimous consent for that to be made a part of the record -- that was prepared by Dr. Thang of Boat People SOS.

[The information follows in the appendix:]

Mr. SMITH. Dr. Thang has been one of the most clear thinkers on what really happens in Vietnam of anyone I have ever met, in terms of human rights activists. When he gives you information, he is usually right. And I would note parenthetically, when I chaired the Human Rights Committee, we had four hearings -- and it was really Dr. Thang who gave us the inspiration; that is why I hope you take his information very seriously -- about the forced repatriation of people who were, you know, caught up in the boat people and those who left after the fall of Saigon. Twenty thousand of those who were screened out as refugees as a result of our hearings and an amendment that I offered and good work done on Rover, the program -- and you know all about it -- where they came here as U.S. citizens. So, Dr. Thang's information is very, very credible.

And on the issue of the PRC, you know, we had a hearing here in this commission; Mr. Wolf chaired it. We heard from two attorneys, human rights defenders from China. And then I had another hearing, which Mr. Wolf permitted me to chair and the other chairman -- and I thank you for that -- on the one-child-per-couple policy, and the same attorney appeared at both of those. He has represented people who have been abused, mostly women, through forced abortion and other religious freedom cases. He has been singled out. We are fearful he will be in jail soon for a 20-year or more visit to the laogai, with all of its torture.

We begged the President to meet him and the other human rights defender when he visited Beijing. The President wouldn't do it. The lawyer and others went to our Embassy fully expecting -- a foreign service officer, perhaps incorrectly, said the meeting might take place. And what happened? He was beaten, his wife was beaten, because the President did not avail himself of an opportunity, as Reagan did, as so many Presidents did before.

I broke my eyeteeth on human rights work during the refusenik work on Soviet Jewry. Never did a visiting diplomat, Democrat or Republican -- my first trip to Russia, the Soviet Union at the time, was with Sam Gejdenson in 1982. We met with all the dissidents. Shultz always did that. It gave them some protection so the dictatorship could not treat them with impunity.

This man was dragged off, and we are now -- we think he has the Sword of Damocles. He appeared before this commission twice, and we asked the President to meet with him. We held, Mr. Wolf and I, an emergency press conference on human rights with Wei Jing Sheng, Harry Wu, all the great leaders of China. So when you say the President incorporates trafficking into his speech, frankly that is not enough.

I watched the statements by Hu Jintao and Obama in China and looked with hope that he would raise the issue of human rights other than in a bleak paragraph, and there was nothing there, nothing about the one-child-per-couple policy, religious persecution, the Uighurs, the Dalai Lama, nothing.

So, please, there needs to be much more if we take human rights seriously and it is not something we want to satisfy, you know, in terms of domestic consumption.

As a matter of fact, even Mrs. Clinton -- and I say this with respect because I respect Mrs. Clinton. She is a very capable person. But on her way to Beijing, the first trip, she said human rights would not interfere -- would not interfere -- with climate change and peddling United States debt. Harry Wu was in my office soon

thereafter, and Harry Wu, almost 20 years in the laogai, tortured beyond recognition, he had tears in his eye, and he says, "Why doesn't Obama care about human rights?"

So, really, we are not all there saying the President is doing it, believe me. I want to be able to sing his praises, but it is all about performance.

So if China is on the watchlist or drops to Tier 2, frankly, that would be, you know -- given the fact that it is worse and getting worse -- and I would ask you to speak to the one-child-per-couple policy. Because, frankly, I have been saying this on deaf ears on both sides of the aisle. People have not heard it. You know, forty million men can't find wives? What does that mean in terms of trafficking? They are going to find women somewhere, and it is going to be through force, fraud, and coercion as a direct result.

And, finally, I would ask you to speak to the issue of faith-based shelters. Like I said earlier, my counterpart in the OSCE doesn't think -- I was in a shelter in Sarajevo that was supported by the international community. It was a nice shelter. I asked him about faith-based. And I had just met with the Grand Mufti. We had traveled to Srebrenica, where a terrible genocide had occurred. I met with the Catholics. I met with the Jewish leaders. None of them had any access to that shelter.

And, you know, we are missing an ingredient of healing when we draw an artificial line and say, "Faith, keep out." And in those faith-based or at least where there is some collaboration, the women have a much better shot at finding peace.

And a shelter in the DR Congo, in Goma, I went to -- women who had been sexually violated, repeatedly raped, mostly by government soldiers. Those women had a peace that I thought was unattainable for what they had been through. And it was the faith component. Their bodies were healed by the great doctors who were there on the ground. There were psychiatrists who were trying to mend their emotional state. But it was a faith component.

And this pushing away which does occur -- and I hope it doesn't occur in our letting of grants -- means at least some, many, many of these women will not find the peace that they so richly deserve.

Mr. CdeBACA. I will start with that.

We do fund and will continue to fund shelters that have a strong faith-based component. We have a number of projects around the world; I can't tell you the exact number. But, in so many countries, the grants that we have with religious organizations are the ones that are making a difference in country. And we are going to continue that. You are correct; it is a proven model. It is one model; there are other ways to address it, as well. And we will look at all of the ways.

But, for me and for the administration, the faith-based component of this is something that is very important, not simply on the advocacy side. I think, to the outside world, when folks think of the faith interest in human trafficking, it is often because of advocacy or lobbying efforts or nontraditional relationships between conservative evangelical groups and liberal women's groups, all of which I think have been very positive for the movement. But it is also the notion of then putting faith into action and getting down with the victim, getting down with the survivors, doing the kind of work, doing the kind of outreach that won't go away.

A lot of these faith communities will do it even if the government doesn't

support them, but that doesn't give us the excuse to not support them, just because they will do it even without us. And I think that that is something that, when we look at what we get a big bang for the buck out of, as far as not just being good stewards of our grant money but also getting the most services to the victims who need it the most, it is so often those faith-based partners.

And I think that we are probably going to be thinking about some of these in some nontraditional ways, as well. I am hoping to be able to take Ambassador Diaz's offer up to go to the Vatican so that we can talk to bishops from Africa there and the cardinals from Africa there about making a difference on the very thing that you suggest, which is that notion of: Is Africa adrift on the issues of human trafficking?

Frankly, it is probably not what you usually hear: Go to Rome so you can do something in Africa. And yet the influence of the cardinals, the influence of the African bishops, not just in the Catholic Church but in other churches as well, is a place that we need to look at. Because dealing directly with the African governments can take us to some degree, but it is not going to take us everywhere.

And so, you know, for me, the notion of thinking about not only service provision, shelter, you know, what people of faith can do directly with the victim, but then stepping back from that as well and trying to think of some new alliances, new ways to engage on that. And, you know, that is something that I am personally committed to and --

Mr. SMITH. Can you yield on that very briefly?

That is especially important, Mr. Chairman, because, in Africa, so many of the church leaders have been the lightning rods on human rights abuse against their governments. And we have seen this with the Global Fund, as well. When the CCMs, the community coordinating mechanisms, are in place, they keep the church out. They don't want them in part of any of it, because they are the ones who call on the carpet the corruption, the human rights abuses, and all the other things.

So it is great you are going directly to them.

Mr. CdeBACA. One of the things that we have seen from the domestic violence movement that I think we would like to try to figure out if we can take internationally is the notion of communities demanding that they should be policed.

In other words, women in the United States, you know, in some of the early years, it was very much of a shelter-based model, maybe even, one could say, an underground railroad of helping the battered woman get away from their abusers. But then by the late 1970s, early 1980s, women were insisting that the police and prosecutors respond to them and say that crimes against women were crimes.

And I think that that is the same thing that we see whether in Africa or otherwise, and it is where the church can really help us, which is that notion of insisting that these marginalized communities deserve the protection of the law and the protection of the government -- not just deserve but will insist upon it. I think it is the leadership of, you know, whether it is the nuns, whether it is -- you know, in some of these countries where we normally would go to the Catholic Church, starting to go to some of the evangelical leaders and really thinking about that relationship in a new way.

So it is something that I think helps us get to the cultural shift, the one that says that, you know, demand for commercial sex, zones of impunity where entire

swaths of people are not getting the benefit of the police -- you know, those types of cultural shifts I think happen not just in government-to-government relationships. So, again, that is something that we are really going to be looking at.

As far as Africa is concerned, my first trip as Ambassador was to Africa, and it was for a reason. I think that, historically, a lot of the energy around human trafficking has been in Eastern Europe or in Southeast Asia because that was where the problem was most obviously manifested around the time of the passage of the TBPA and around the time of the promulgation of the Palermo Protocol.

But I had been noticing as a prosecutor and then here on the Hill as a Judiciary Committee staffer, I have been noticing what you suggest, as well, that Africa is very much a place where we have tended to look over it, or we look at it when it affects the developed world. So an African -- a child's body washes up in the Thames River and then suddenly the U.K. starts thinking about African child slavery. You know, an African child gets enslaved in the D.C. suburbs as a domestic servant, and suddenly the United States thinks about Africa. But then we go back to doing trafficking in the places where everyone always talks about it.

I don't think that that is acceptable, either for the international community or for the African countries themselves. And so, my engagement on that, in working with Johnny Carson on this issue, he is very interested in human trafficking, I think willing to deliver these messages. And it is a message not only of what the tier ranking should be and the types of pressure that can come from a low tier ranking but also the notion of programs -- we have increased the programming in Africa -- and trying to come up with some new ways of doing programming.

So, for instance, I have a commitment from John Morton, the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to deploy a couple of agents to work with the Durban Anti-Trafficking Task Force in the run-up to the World Cup so that we can supplement them. The South Africans just got their first convictions last week in a sex trafficking case in Durban with the task force.

It is a task force model that looks an awful lot like the 42 U.S. task forces around the country. And we are going to support that. That is not a grant. That is something very different. That is deploying U.S. resources into Africa in a new way. So we are definitely stepping it up in Africa.

As far as China is concerned, I haven't necessarily looked at the one-child policy in-depth enough to be able to dialogue with you on that. Although I would say that there has been a lot of reporting in the TIP Report and from the field about that notion of women being taken into China and Chinese men being very much a market that drives the regions, whether it is in southern China with the Mekong Subregion -- we hear about this from our partners in the COMMIT process and others -- and then also up in the North Korea border.

And it is something that we continue to be concerned about and that we will continue to work on. And I would love to talk to you a little bit more about it.

Mr. SMITH. That would be great. Niger?

Mr. CdeBACA. Yes, a couple of things happening with Niger. Pulling programs out of Niger was not specific to trafficking. There are a number of programs and government moneys that were pulled out of Niger because of some of the issues with the government.

Once that was being done, we looked at where we needed to find the money for Haiti. And since we were having that drawout of money from Niger, we looked at it -- we had promises. We have promised the AF bureau that we would backfill with that. We will do that regardless of what happens in the Haiti supplemental. We have a request in the Haiti supplemental that we hope that you guys would look at favorably. And we would love to be able to backfill out of that so that we end up having a zero-sum problem there. But if we don't get money in the Haiti sup, we will go ahead and replenish this money nonetheless.

Mr. SMITH. You will. Because the notice did say it was from an anti-trafficking project.

Mr. CdeBACA. Yes.

Mr. SMITH. Okay.

Mr. CdeBACA. And that enabled us to actually change the money very quickly, because it was already an anti-trafficking project. So we are working with the AF bureau to make sure that we can get the money out quickly and we can replenish that program.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you.

Mr. Pitts?

Mr. PITTS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for coming, for answering all the questions.

I concur with what my colleagues have said on China and Vietnam. I want to go back to Southeast Asia and talk about Burma. And I notice Burma is on Tier 3, and I am pleased with that. But there are a number of things that I am concerned about with Burma and the lack of speaking out on some things.

I had the privilege of visiting there. And Burma has the largest child soldier army in the world, estimated at 70,000 of their troops are child soldiers. In your report, you do say, in 2008 the Junta showed some cooperation with international organizations on the issue of the military's conscription of children, resulting in the return of 21 children to their families. However, the regime did not permit access from UNICEF to children who were released for follow-up. They did not criminally prosecute perpetrators of child soldier recruitment.

That is a drop in the bucket. I am glad there is some, perhaps, progress. But in visiting with the victims of the SPDC, the ethnic minority victims -- and I visited people from the Karen, the Kareni, the Arakan, the Wa, the Mon, the Chin, the Kachin -- all the tribes. And there are hundreds of thousands and millions -- actually, they estimate a million IDPs in the area right now that are fleeing the SPDC.

They have wiped out over 4,000 villages. They go in and shoot every woman, man, and child. I have visited with the rape victims, the women. And they have done some reports on that. They use rape as a weapon of terror. They tell their soldiers it is okay to rape the women because they are not Burmese, they are ethnic minorities. What is occurring is ethnic genocide.

I visited with the land mine victims. They use women and children as land mine sweepers in front of their troops as they go through areas. And if they step on a mine, you know, they just leave them. I visited with some of those victims.

I visited orphanages. One little boy, 8 years old, still had a bullet in his stomach. He had witnessed his parents killed. He had managed to escape. He had

been trafficked as a victim. He managed to escape that and get to this refugee camp that I visited, all by the age of 8. He was so traumatized he could not smile, he could not show any emotion.

These people are being victimized. I visited with eyewitnesses who had seen thousands of old and young, too old and too young to escape, who had been conscripted, and their slave labor in building the dams along the border there, several dam sites.

And my question is, what is our State Department, what is our government doing to increase pressure on Burma for these horrific violations, human rights violation?

I visited a faith-based group that had little Arakan girls who had been rescued from sex trafficking. And I concur with Mr. Smith; they are doing a terrific job in the rehabilitation of these victims.

But what pressure, what increased pressure are we bringing to bear on Burma and this corrupt SPDC regime that is victimizing the people?

And then let me just go to one other question on trafficking. What can be done to promote the role of transportation companies in the fight against human trafficking? Have any groups investigated the possibility of providing incentives to transportation companies to aid in combating human trafficking, including, for example, monitoring systems or creating reward programs for companies that report, you know, with good trafficking records?

If you could respond to a couple of those, please.

Mr. CdeBACA. I think as far as transport companies is concerned, this is perhaps one of the places where the research and even intel would be very helpful. Because one of the things that we have seen is that many of the efforts that have been on interdiction or on border issues have not been as successful as interior enforcement.

I think that some of that, based on my own personal experience as a prosecutor, comes from the fact that we are learning that more of the victims of trafficking these days present not as someone who was kidnapped and then taken to another place to be enslaved, but rather are people who went willingly to do that type of job or that type of service and then get enslaved by their masters. That can often be because they have been tricked, but they don't know that they have been tricked en route. So it is very hard to identify a trafficking victim as they travel.

There is a now famous story in enforcement circles about -- and I can't recall which Eastern European country it was -- but of a busload of beautiful young women from, I want to say, Romania who were stopped at the border and interrogated for hours as the border guards kept insisting that they were trafficking victims and that they needed to admit that they were trafficking victims so that they could get help. What it was, it was a shopping excursion of a bunch of women who had rented a bus together to go up to shop in the Baltic states.

And so I think that, you know, one of the things that we want to try to make sure is that we don't -- that while we work with border guards, while we work with transport companies, while we try to get prevention mechanisms, whether it is posters or other things, in the places from where they depart or the zones of entry where they come, that we also have a very robust interior enforcement. Because it is often not

until they get to where they are going to be enslaved that they, themselves, actually can become a trafficking victim.

Having said that, I do think that we need to do both at once. We need to make sure that those border guards and whether it is, you know, the pilots on the airplanes or the bus drivers know what trafficking is, if somebody looks to them for help that they can actually help them, and that there are these linkages when that presents so that we can get them to the NGO community quickly.

I think that, as I said, I don't want us to go too much in one direction or the other, because anywhere where we can find a trafficking victim and help them, we should be trying to do that.

As far as Burma is concerned, I will leave for Assistant Secretary Campbell and his team more the question on what are we doing broadly on Burma in pressuring them. As far as the trafficking problem is concerned, we are trying to engage the ASEAN countries, and I think successfully doing so, as far as the spillover effect of the Burmese refugee problem as a driver of exploitation in much of Southeast Asia. We see Burmese refugees being so often the ones who are enslaved in Malaysia, in southern Thailand in the fishing industry. That spillover effect ends up being a big one as people try to flee the junta.

That flight from one form of slavery, where you have a government who has declared that it has the right to put everybody into compulsory service, into the arms of traffickers in the surrounding countries has a destabilizing effect on the trafficking situation in the entire region. And so we are working with the ASEAN countries as far as that is concerned, not only so that they can investigate those cases but also to have those countries have a different relationship with Burma, obviously, than we do so that these can be addressed.

The other thing is that, working with the Australians, the ARTIP project, the Australian Regional Trafficking in Persons Initiative, to try to get the folks who have done such a good job of police and prosecutor training in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, to be able to get them into Burma to be able to be in courtrooms, work with the police and prosecutors to try to make sure that they are using the human-rights-based approaches as far as going out and investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases.

There has been mixed success on that, frankly. Some of the folks in the ARTIP project have been able to work with the prosecutors and police but then haven't been able to get access to the victims or to the courtrooms. And we are going to continue to support Australia's efforts on that.

Burma, of course, it raises a whole host of other issues. And, like I said, I will probably have to defer many of those to Kurt Campbell and his team.

Mr. PITTS. What about the child soldiers?

Mr. CdeBACA. The child soldiers problem in Burma is something that we are beginning to confront through our reporting for this year's report. As you know, the Child Soldiers Prevention Act, which was the last portion of the TBPR of 2008, mandates that we list countries this year who have a child soldier problem.

And I think that your rendering of the child soldier problem is in keeping with what we are hearing from the region. I haven't seen that reporting cable yet, so I can't give you a heads-up on where we are headed with that. But I think that Burma certainly is a country that we are going to be looking very closely at, as we look at the

CSPA.

Mr. PITTS. Thank you.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you very much. Thank you for your testimony and your patience. And we appreciate your service. And I guess the message here is we want to work with you, and look forward to a strong collaboration in the months and years ahead. So thank you very much.

Mr. CdeBACA. Thank you, sir.

Cochairman McGOVERN. We are going to call up panel two and three together.

I would like to call Timothy Williams, the director of INTERPOL in Washington; Dallas Jessup, founder of Just Yell Fire; Deborah Sigmund, the director of Innocents at Risk; Sandra Fiorini, a flight attendant, graduate of DHS Operation Blue Lightning; and Selene Martin, the director of LexisNexis Cares.

I will ask unanimous consent that your full biographies all be put into the record.

[The information follows in the appendix:]

Cochairman McGOVERN. And we look forward to your testimony.

Mr. Williams, I know you are under a time constraint here, and so we are going to begin with you, once someone gives you a chair.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, sir.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Mr. Williams, thank you for being here.

Again, thank you all for your patience. That first panel went on longer than I thought, but this is important stuff.

And we will begin with you. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, DIRECTOR OF INTERPOL – WASHINGTON DC

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Chairman McGovern, Chairman Wolf, distinguished committee members. My name is Tim Williams, and I am the director of INTERPOL Washington, U.S. National Central Bureau, which is a component of the Department of Justice. It is unique that it is co-managed by the Department of Homeland Security, which brings all those agencies together.

I was detailed to INTERPOL Washington in 2006 from the U.S. Marshals Service, where I have 24 years of Federal Government service in the law enforcement arena. I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission concerning the fight against human trafficking.

Human trafficking has certainly become a global problem that affects countries throughout the world. INTERPOL, the international criminal police organization, plays an important role in assisting law enforcement agencies around the world share critical intelligence and information to combat human trafficking and other transnational crime. It is also a priority for INTERPOL to provide quick and effective responses to all incidents of crimes involving human trafficking.

To fight human trafficking crimes, law enforcement agencies need to cooperate on a global basis, and this is because of the international expansion of these offenses. INTERPOL, along with its 188 member countries, have established a communications network that provides a unique platform and resources to fight this crime on a global scale.

INTERPOL's main work involves a secure communications network that connects these countries, as well as coordinating international investigations. INTERPOL also manages databases containing law enforcement information, and I will speak about a few of these databases in a few minutes.

Each of the 188 member countries has a national central bureau like the U.S. National Central Bureau that serves as a representative to INTERPOL and the point of contact for all INTERPOL matters.

According to our latest statistics at INTERPOL, trafficking in human beings is a multibillion-dollar form of international organized crime, constituting modern-day slavery. Recent estimates by the International Labor Organization place its value in the upper \$30 billion level.

Victims are recruited and trafficked between countries and regions using deception or coercion. They are stripped of their autonomy, freedom of movement

and choice, and face various forms of physical, emotional, and mental abuse. Trafficking in human beings is a crime under international law and many national and regional legal systems.

Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, trafficking for forced labor, commercial/sexual exploitation of children and tourism, as well as trafficking in organs are four of the main forms that we have found at INTERPOL. But there is one consistent pattern in all of these forms of trafficking, and that is the inherent vulnerability of the victims.

There has been much discussion of the various trafficking, and I am going -- to save time for the other panel members, I am going to just get into the resources that INTERPOL offers in this area.

Because of this sophisticated nature of this crime of trafficking human beings, there is an increased need and requirement for international law enforcement cooperation. I would like to outline a few of these resources that are available that INTERPOL provides to its 188 member countries in the area of human trafficking.

On the operational level, INTERPOL offers assistance to member countries with training and support in tactical operations. INTERPOL has an expert working group in trafficking in human beings, which there are U.S. agencies part of -- State Department, ICE, FBI. And these groups annually meet to raise awareness of emerging issues, promote prevention programs, and initiate specialized training.

Project Childhood addresses the issue of sex tourism in a trafficking context and aims to develop partnerships with police, authorities, and other stakeholders in Asia to promote the prosecution of abusers.

INTERPOL notices and diffusions, which are known worldwide, enable global cooperation between the member countries for tracking criminals and suspects, as well as locating missing persons and collecting information. INTERPOL's human smuggling and trafficking messaging system provides a standardized format for reporting cases of trafficking between member countries to INTERPOL databases.

MIND/FIND technology solutions enable frontline law enforcement agencies, such as border police or immigration authorities, to receive responses for queries on stolen or lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles, wanted criminals. All of the authorized users of the INTERPOL system have access to these databases.

We have partnered with numerous organizations, including NGOs, with the European Union, United Nations, and many other agents and organizations in reference to this field.

I wanted to mention that, you know, what we are trying to do is strengthen -- is to bring awareness to law enforcement and prosecutors and judiciary across -- you know, not just in several countries but all of our member countries. And I think it is important for the U.S. to take a leadership role in this area. Many of our recent laws in the area of child exploitation are setting the example for other countries, and slowly we are seeing a significant increase in countries paying attention to these crimes.

As I said, INTERPOL facilitates and coordinates the flow of information between these investigative entities and member countries. We have also taken a coordinating role in the United States to bring agencies that have significant investigative interest in human trafficking together so that they are coordinating their

efforts rather than -- what I have seen is many very good projects being worked on by agencies but not being coordinated sometimes, where they are sharing that information with other agencies, which will make resources much more useful.

I am going to stop there, Chairman, and take any questions that you might have.

[The statement of Mr. Williams follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

10 a.m. – Noon

Thursday, March 25, 2010

INTERPOL and Human Trafficking Efforts

Introduction:

Mr. Co-Chairmen McGovern and Wolf: My name is Tim Williams, and I am the Director of INTERPOL Washington, (U.S. National Central Bureau), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice and co-managed with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. I officially became Director in October 2009. Prior to that time, I was the Deputy Director of INTERPOL Washington where I served for three years. I was detailed to INTERPOL Washington in 2006 from the U.S. Marshals Service where I have 25 years of federal government service in the law enforcement arena.

I want to first thank you for the opportunity to address the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission concerning the fight against human trafficking. Preventing crimes is the goal of all law enforcement agencies. Additionally, it is a priority for INTERPOL to provide quick and effective responses to all incidences of human trafficking crimes.

To fight human trafficking crimes, law enforcement agencies need to cooperate on a global basis because human trafficking is an increasingly global problem. INTERPOL, the International Criminal Police Organization, with 188 member countries and an established communications network for police cooperation, is ideally suited to serve in the role of combating human trafficking. INTERPOL's main work involves serving as a secure communications network for its member countries and coordinating international investigations. INTERPOL also manages databases containing law enforcement information. I will speak to a few of these databases in regards to human trafficking later in my testimony.

Each of INTERPOL's 188 member countries has a National Central Bureau, like the U.S. National Central Bureau, that serves as its representative to INTERPOL and is the point of contact for all INTERPOL matters for the countries' national authorities. These National Central Bureaus also serve as the main point of contact for facilitating and communicating information on human trafficking crimes to all of the member countries.

According to the latest INTERPOL statistics, *"Trafficking in human beings is a multi-billion dollar form of international organized crime, constituting modern-day slavery. Recent estimates by the International Labour Organization place its value at \$39 billion each year. Victims are recruited and trafficked between countries and regions using deception or coercion. They are stripped of their autonomy, freedom of movement and choice, and face various forms of physical, emotional, and mental abuse. Trafficking in human beings is a crime under international law and many national and regional legal systems. Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation, trafficking for forced labour, commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism, and trafficking in organs are four of the many forms of trafficking but the one consistent pattern in all of these forms of trafficking is the inherent vulnerability of the victims."*

Forms of Human Trafficking:

Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation is one of the most prevalent forms of human trafficking that affects every region in the world, either as a source, transit or destination country. Women and children from developing countries and from vulnerable parts of society in developed countries are lured by promises of decent employment into leaving their homes and travelling to what they consider will be a better life. Once they are lured away into these new lives supposedly, they are provided with false documents and an organized network is used to transport them to the destination country where they are then forced into sexual slavery and live in inhumane conditions under constant fear for their lives.

Trafficking for forced labor is also a form of human trafficking that is primarily found in developing countries. Victims are recruited and trafficked using deception and coercion and find themselves held in conditions of slavery in a variety of jobs. The majority of the jobs these in which victims find themselves working are primarily in agriculture and construction work, domestic servitude (maids and menservants) and other labor intensive jobs.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism is a type of human trafficking that has been most apparent in Asia for many years and has now become more prominent in Africa as well as Central and South America. This form of human trafficking is promoted by the growth of inexpensive air travel and relatively low risk of prohibition and prosecution for engaging in sexual relations with minors.

Trafficking in organs is also a growing phenomenon where humans are trafficked for the purpose of using their organs, especially kidneys.

All of these forms of human trafficking have sparked an opportunity for INTERPOL to continually collaborate and build partnerships around the world.

INTERPOL's resources to combat Human Trafficking:

Because of the sophisticated nature of the crime of trafficking in human beings, there is an increased need and requirement for international law enforcement cooperation. I would like to outline for you today a few of the resources INTERPOL provides to its 188 member countries in the area of human trafficking.

- On an operational level, INTERPOL offers assistance to member countries with training and support in tactical operations.
- The INTERPOL Expert Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings meets annually to raise awareness of emerging issues, promote prevention programs and initiate specialized training.
- Project Childhood addresses the issue of sex tourism in a trafficking context and aims to develop partnerships with police authorities and other stakeholders in Asia in order to promote the prosecution of abusers and the rescue of victims.
- INTERPOL's Notices and Diffusions system enables global cooperation between its member countries for tracking criminals and suspects as well as locating missing persons or collecting information.
- INTERPOL's Human Smuggling and Trafficking Message system provides a standardized format for reporting cases of trafficking between member countries and to INTERPOL's database.
- MIND/FIND technical solutions enable frontline law enforcement agencies, such as border police or immigration authorities, to receive responses for queries on stolen or lost travel documents, stolen motor vehicles and wanted criminals. All authorized users of INTERPOL's 1-24/7 global police communications system have access to these databases.

International collaboration on the law enforcement aspect in the persecution of traffickers:

In 2009, the European Council adopted the Action Oriented paper to strengthen the commitment and coordinated action of the European Union and its member states to prevent and fight trafficking in human beings for the purposes of all forms of exploitation in partnership with third countries, regions and organizations at the international level, including INTERPOL.

The Action Oriented paper is based on the recognition that in order to effectively address human trafficking, an integrated, holistic and multidisciplinary approach is needed, having as its basis respect for human rights and the rule of law, including a gender and child rights perspective.

INTERPOL is also engaged with the United Nations Open-ended Intergovernmental Meeting of experts on possible Mechanisms to Review Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the associated protocols.

INTERPOL systems currently in place:

INTERPOL cooperates with other international organizations such as Europol, Frontex, Osce, Eurojust, and the UNODC as part of its ongoing efforts in combating Trafficking in Human Beings. There are already a number of tools in place through these organizations. INTERPOL tries to avoid duplication and instead uses and develops existing strategies.

What, if anything, can be done to strengthen them?

- INTERPOL's goal is to create a greater sense of awareness among the Judiciary so they have a greater understanding of the nature and extent of this type of criminal activity.
- INTERPOL seeks to create a positive atmosphere and cooperate with NGOs and the private sector also working in these areas to combat human trafficking crimes.
- INTERPOL has a victim-centered approach. This approach has also been on the agenda in ministerial meetings involving the UNODC and the EU.

How does INTERPOL go about, in general terms, investigating trafficking situations?

INTERPOL facilitates and coordinates the flow of information between the investigative entities of the member countries involved and helps create an awareness of the investigative assistance available through INTERPOL and its 188 member countries.

Instruments INTERPOL utilizes to enforce these operations:

INTERPOL's role is not to enforce but to support, and in this capacity, INTERPOL's global policing tools such as our secure Global Communication System I-24/7 and range of databases, including nominal, DNA, SLTD (stolen and lost travel documents) and fingerprints can be used to assist member countries with their operations/investigations.

Recent Significant INTERPOL case in Human Trafficking:

A joint international manhunt between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and multiple law enforcement agencies in the United States and overseas led to the arrest of a fugitive by the name Jorge Torres-Puello, aka Jorge Torres Orellana on March 19, 2010, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic at 8 p.m.

Torres-Puello was wanted in El Salvador for crimes against children, sexual exploitation for minors for pornography and prostitution, organized crime and human trafficking. In the United States, he was wanted in Vermont on alien smuggling offenses and in Philadelphia for probation violations for fraud.

In February, law enforcement authorities in El Salvador were notified that an individual acting as the legal advisor to the U.S. missionaries in Haiti bore a strong resemblance to Jorge Torres Orellana, the man wanted by El Salvadorian authorities. Authorities contacted INTERPOL requesting assistance, and an INTERPOL Red Notice was issued to law enforcement agencies worldwide.

Because INTERPOL Washington had been in previous contact with authorities in El Salvador, immediately Jorge Torres Orellana was confirmed to be a fugitive from justice and was also wanted in Canada and the U.S. INTERPOL Washington served as the intermediary in coordinating efforts between multiple agencies in the United States and overseas resulting in the apprehension of Torres-Puello.

Cochairman McGOVERN. I appreciate it.

And I know that you are under a time limit, but I just have one question for you. And that is, INTERPOL is an international coalition of law enforcement agencies. Due to the very nature of differing law agencies, do you find it hard to coordinate efforts? And what have been the greatest difficulties you have found in INTERPOL's law enforcement efforts to combat trafficking?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Well, I think the great thing is having 188 countries being able to communicate with each other on a network and share information immediately. Fifteen, 20 years ago, everything was done by mail. It is done by computer in that system now to share information.

I think the challenges are the laws in the other countries are not always the same. But I think that we have come a long way in the sharing of information. There are challenges dealing with agencies. There are challenges in the U.S. dealing with 18,000 police agencies. So it is very similar worldwide. But I think it is certainly a worthwhile endeavor, because this crime in particular needs to be looked at as a global crime. And if we don't have interaction and buy-in from the other law enforcement entities in the other countries, we are not going to get very far.

Cochairman McGOVERN. And the countries that were mentioned here quite a bit, I mean, do they provide you information? I mean, do we have a relationship with Vietnam that you are getting accurate information and --

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, we do. You would be surprised. We do get a lot of cooperation from many of the countries.

Mr. Smith is not here, unfortunately, but I have worked with his staff specifically on child exploitation issues, where we have initiated initiatives in our office here in Washington to track convicted sex offenders overseas that are preying -- and combating sex tourism in the meantime, but to make sure that those other countries feel that that is an important thing to do. Some of them feel it is more important than others, and we are working on that.

Cochairman McGOVERN. And just one last question. What about here in the United States?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Excuse me?

Cochairman McGOVERN. What about here in the United States? I mean, in terms of -- I mean, going back to this film I saw, I was stunned by the extent of human trafficking here in the United States and what easy access people have to it. I mean, you know, a lot of people who are coming here, obviously, are coming from other countries that are being exploited. But it just seems to me that, I mean, the extent of it is so great, I am just puzzled, we haven't gotten the right combination yet to be able to crack down on it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I think you always hear -- let me share my shock at the crime. And I will be honest with you, I have spent a lot of time investigating fugitives and narcotics, terrorism, all kinds of crimes. This is a very shocking crime and a shameful crime, in my mind, that this goes on. I had no idea when I came to INTERPOL that this was happening on such a high level and frequently.

I think, to be honest with you, law enforcement resources are stretched very thin. There are so many tasks. And I would put this -- in my office, one of our top

priorities is the human trafficking and the exploitation of women and children, but I know a lot of agencies would like to put more time into it. I think it is a shocking crime, and it is something that needs more attention.

Cochairman McGOVERN. And just one final thing. I hope that you will feel free to -- I mean, you have heard a lot of passionate statements up here, but the fact is we want to make sure that our policy up here and the moneys that we are dedicating to the law enforcement agencies are enough. So, I mean, if there are areas that you think that we need to pay greater attention to or invest more money into, I hope that you won't hesitate to notify us or our staffs on how we could be helpful. Because these are, as you said, shocking crimes. And it just seems to me that we could do a better job of cracking down on them. And I think all of us together need to figure that out.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir. And I commend you and the panel because you are passionate, and I like to see that. And I certainly would volunteer to coordinate a panel of law enforcement that you can ask some questions to and see what they are doing as far as coordinating efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

Cochairman McGOVERN. We may follow up with you on that, and I appreciate it. I know you have a time issue, so I want to thank you for being here.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you so much, and I appreciate the opportunity.

Cochairman McGOVERN. And now we will hear from our final panel. We will begin with Dallas Jessup, the founder of Just Yell Fire.

Mr. McGOVERN. Again, we thank you for your patience, and we appreciate your testimony.

STATEMENT OF DALLAS JESSUP, FOUNDER OF JUST YELL FIRE

Ms. JESSUP. Congressman McGovern and others, I am here as the founder and spokesperson for the nonprofit Just Yell Fire. Our mission is to empower girls ages 11 to 19 to defend themselves and fight back against predators and modern-day slave traders.

These are the girls most targeted by predators and sex traffickers, who are then abducted, forced, or intimidated into the horrific circumstances that define this hundred-billion-dollar menace.

But we have a different solution to attacking this problem. It is a high-impact solution, and it has shown remarkable success in over 48 countries and it has been working for over a million girls. In the Just Yell Fire solution, it is the teenage girl on the front lines of human trafficking who becomes the hero, who will put the end to human trafficking in this generation.

Now, I will admit, it is a scary thought, thinking that we are putting our bet on the average 14-year-old girl who could walk through a room full of leopards and not notice because she is text messaging and she is naive beyond belief. However, with this certain type of education, a combination of danger avoidance, rights awareness, and getaway skills, the teenage girl becomes the most effective weapon against the traffickers.

Now, police can't be everywhere and parents can't be everywhere, so girls are having to learn how to defend themselves. And here is how we are doing it. Now let

me share what we have learned firsthand, what we are doing about it, the surprising results, and the three things we have learned.

First, we take for granted that girls know that they have rights to stand up for themselves, that they can say "no" to verbal, emotional, or physical abuse, and that they can report violence against them. But a lifetime of "do what you are told, do what the adults say, and don't talk back" has told girls that they don't really have these rights.

And I know this because I speak at dozens of schools across the country and internationally. And, every time, girls come up to me after, telling me about how they have been abused at home, how a boyfriend is raping them, and they didn't know that they could stop that until I spoke to them. So we have to remind girls that they have rights.

And, second, we have learned that teenage girls are naive and have no clue as to the dangers they face every single day. They don't believe that the dangers are real, and they don't know what to look for. So we must arm them now with that knowledge, give these girls a basic danger awareness and avoidance education.

And, third, anyone with a daughter knows that, no matter how much you warn us not to get into difficult and bad situations, we are going to do stupid things. We can be pretty dumb. But I don't think and no one in here can think that we should have to die for that. So the final piece to this puzzle is that girls need and want getaway strategies so that they can save their lives when they get into perilous situations that these traffickers create for them.

Now, that is the dangerous landscape that teenage girls live in, and here is what we are doing about it. Just Yell Fire started out when I set out to make a homemade video to teach my schoolmates some getaway moves that I learned from studying Filipino street fighting. Well, the word got out that we were making a film to keep girls safe, and 30 days later we had 30 professional crew and 100 extras volunteered to help out. Even Evangeline Lilly and Josh Holloway joined the cause.

Now, the police helped us with the safety awareness, educators helped us with the Girl Bill of Rights, and my martial arts coach helped us with some 10 fast getaway moves that girls can learn in an hour, like biting, eye gouging, ear tearing, and ear ripping.

Sixty days later, we put the Just Yell Fire movie online for free and formed a nonprofit to ship DVDs to any girl without Internet access. And then it became one of the 10 most downloaded production-linked films worldwide in its launch of 2006. And today we have given away more than 1 million downloads and DVDs in 48 countries, still at the rate of over 10,000 each month.

For an example of the breadth of this thing, consider that 10 percent of our downloads are in Iran, Pakistan, and other countries that are not known for protecting women. And that is the movie, and we are working on the next one.

The second way we spread Just Yell Fire is by speaking at schools, law enforcement, shelters, and women's events. An example of this was when we went to India last summer, 12 colleges, where trafficking is at a crisis level. Girls are being taken there, and there are minimal laws to deal with it. They are sold from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

Girls are scared there. Twenty thousand of them showed up to learn how to

save their life in the stay-safe skills. They needed and demanded for information. And we speak at upscale prep schools and sometimes more challenging urban schools. I talk to groups of girls in the system to connect with parents and teachers. And we are going to Australia this summer.

And last, because I can't be everywhere, we are leveraging Just Yell Fire with the "train the trainer" classes where we teach teachers, coaches, parents, and police how to present the information to keep our girls safe. Now, these events are usually sponsored by local businesses, parents, and organizations.

Now, the way we can track our results is anywhere from 500 to 1,000 e-mails a day. Parents write us to thank us for protecting their daughters from being abducted. AIDS orphan shelters in Africa wrote to tell us that their kids are being raped on the streets, but they are training them with our tools. And now we have 100,000 stories like that.

And I would ask today that we accept that the trafficking of teenage girls is not an impossible social problem. It must and it can be stopped. While trafficking takes many forms -- abduction, forced labor, long-term slavery for profit -- every one of those can be reduced or eliminated with an education-based system.

Just Yell Fire has reached a million girls. The way you can get to 100 million? The really big answer is in the classroom. The premise is simple. If you make self-defense, personal-rights awareness, and danger avoidance mandatory as a part of health class or PE every year for every teen girl, within a few years you will have the most powerful generation of girls in the history of mankind -- girls who aren't easily tricked, intimidated, or forced into this process, a generation of heroes who turns the tables on the traffickers and predators.

Now, can there be such a simple solution to this problem? MIT says yes. They adopted Just Yell Fire as a four-credit course to spread the skills. The FBI says yes. They use it to train their daughters. Shelters in Africa, women's groups in Pakistan, and law enforcement agencies in other countries, the New York Police Department's sex crimes unit, and groups across America are using this system to protect their girls.

Now, the next step is simple: Substitute self-defense for dodgeball, and you can change the world.

Members of the Commission, thank you for the work you are doing, and thank you for the privilege of testifying.

[The statement of Ms. Jessup follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DALLAS JESSUP

March 25, 2010
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
United States House of Representatives
Testimony of Dallas Jessup: Founder of Just Yell Fire, Inc.

About Dallas Jessup (18) – CNN Hero and Youth Activist, Dallas grew a community service project to fight predators into the non profit Just Yell Fire which is now a Million Girl Revolution across 48 countries. She leads the organization while a freshman at Vanderbilt University as a McKelvey Scholar for Social Entrepreneurship.

Testimony - Congressman McGovern, Congressman Wolf, and Members of the Commission, I'm here as founder and spokesperson of the non profit Just Yell Fire. Our mission is to empower girls aged 11 to 19 to fight back against predators and the modern day slave traders of the sex trafficking industry. These are the girls most-targeted by traffickers to abduct and force or intimidate into the horrific circumstances that define this 100 billion dollar worldwide menace. We have a different approach

to the trafficking crisis – It’s a high-impact solution that is showing remarkable success. In fact, it’s working for more than 1 million girls in 48 countries, so far.

In the Just Yell Fire solution, it is the Teenage Girl on the front lines of human trafficking who becomes the hero who will put an end to the sex trafficking industry in this generation. I’ll admit it’s a pretty scary thought: that we place our bet on the average 14-year-old, who could walk through a room filled with leopards and not notice because she is text messaging; she is naïve beyond belief.

However, we have learned that with a specific type of education; a combination of danger avoidance, rights awareness, and get away skills, the Teenage Girl becomes the most effective weapon against the traffickers. Police can’t be everywhere, nor can parents – so it’s up to us girls to fight this war and here’s how we’re doing it.

Let me share what we’ve discovered first hand, what we’re doing about it, and the surprising results. We have learned three things: First, Most of us take for granted that girls somehow know they have a right to stand up for themselves; that they can say “No” to verbal, emotional, and physical abuse or threats; that they can report violence against them. But, after a lifetime of “Do what you’re told” “Don’t talk back” & “Always do what an adult tells you”, Girls do not know they have their own rights.

I know this because I speak at dozens of schools and every time there are a few girls who come up after and tell me they are abused or pressured into high risk behavior. They tell me they didn’t know they could stop it until they heard our Girls Bill of Rights. So, we must tell them their rights. Second, We have learned that Teenage girls are naïve and have no clue as to the dangers they face every single day. They don’t believe they are in any danger and they don’t know what to look out for. We must arm them with that knowledge. Give these girls a basic danger awareness and avoidance education. And,

Third, anyone with a daughter knows that no matter how much you warn us of danger, we’re still going to do stupid things anyway. We can be pretty dumb but we shouldn’t have to die for it. So the final piece to the puzzle is girls need and want get away strategies for when they do get into the perilous situations created by traffickers.

That is the dangerous landscape where teenage girls live. Here’s what we’re doing about it:

Just Yell Fire started when I set out to make a home movie to teach my schoolmates some cool get-away moves I learned studying for my street-fighting instructorship. The word got out we were making a film to keep girls safe and 30 days later a professional crew of 30 and 100 extras had volunteered to help out. Even Josh Holloway and Evangeline Lilly of LOST lent a hand.

The police helped us with safety awareness, educators helped us with a Girls Bill of Rights, and my martial arts coaches helped come up with 10 fast-learn get away moves girls can learn in an hour, like biting or eye gouging. 60 days later we put the Just Yell Fire movie online as a free download and formed a non profit to ship DVDs to any girl without Internet access.

It became 1 of the 10 most-downloaded production-length films worldwide and between its launch in 2006 and today we have given away more than 1 million downloads and DVDs in 48 countries; still at the rate of more than 10,000 each month. For an example of the breadth of this thing: consider that more than 10% of our downloads are in Iran, Pakistan, and other places not-known for girls empowerment. That’s the movie, and we’re working on the next one.

The second way we spread the Just Yell Fire word is by speaking at schools, shelters, law enforcement conferences, and women’s events.

As an example we went to India to present Just Yell Fire at 12 colleges in rural and urban areas where trafficking is at a crisis level; girls are taken because there is minimal law enforcement and they can be sold for \$1,000 to \$15,000 dollars. Girls are scared there – Twenty Thousand of them showed up to learn stay-safe skills. The need and demand for information is pervasive: We speak at upscale prep schools and at some of the more challenging urban schools; I talk to groups of girls in the system, to concerned parents and teachers. We’re going to Australia this summer and South Africa after that.

And last, because I can’t be everywhere we are leveraging Just Yell Fire with Train the Trainer classes where we teach groups of coaches, teachers, and police how to present our information to keep their girls safe. These events are usually sponsored by local businesses or parents organizations in response to high profile abductions or killings.

The way we can track our results is by the anywhere from 5 to hundreds of emails and letters we receive each day. Parents write to thank us for protecting their girls, and tell us about some who got away because they had received the Just Yell Fire information. Victims write to thank us for spotlighting the crisis and offering solutions. An AIDS Orphans shelter in Africa wrote to tell us their kids are being raped in the streets but they’re training them with our tools. We have 100s of stories like this from everywhere

I would ask today that we accept that the trafficking of teenage girls is not an impossible social problem – that it can and must be stopped;

While human trafficking takes many forms: abduction, forced labor, and long term sexual-slavery-for-profit: Every one of these can be reduced or eliminated with an education-based solution;

Just Yell Fire has reached 1 million girls, but the way you get to 100 million, the really big answer, is in the classroom.

The premise is simple: if you make self defense, personal rights awareness, and danger avoidance a mandatory part of health class and PE, every year, for every teen girl; within a few years you will have the most powerful generation of young women in history. Girls who aren't easily tricked, intimidated, or taken – a generation of heroes who turn the tables on traffickers and put these predators out of business.

Can there be so simple a solution to a worldwide crisis? MIT says “Yes”; they adopted Just Yell Fire as a for-credit course to spread the skills. The FBI says “Yes”, they use us to train their daughters. Shelters in Africa, women's groups in Pakistan, law enforcement organizations in many countries, the NYPD sex crimes unit, groups across America, and scores of others have formed Just Yell Fire communities to protect their girls. The next step is a simple solution – substitute self defense for dodge ball in America's schools; and you change the world.

Members of the commission, thank you for the work you are doing and for the privilege of testifying.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Well, thank you very much.

We are now going to hear from Deborah Sigmund, the director of Innocents at Risk.
Welcome.

STATEMENT OF DEBORAH SIGMUND, DIRECTOR OF INNOCENTS AT RISK

Ms. SIGMUND. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman. And I am Deborah Sigmund, the founder and director of Innocents at Risk, an organization dedicated to preventing child exploitation and child trafficking.

I would like to thank the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for asking me to be with you today to talk about the greatest human rights issue of the 21st century, human trafficking, which is modern-day slavery.

I first learned about human trafficking in the summer of 2002 from a friend who was living in France. I learned that each year millions of women and children are coerced, tricked, drugged, kidnapped, and sold into an underground world of sex trade. I was horrified, and I wanted to know, why isn't anyone talking about this?

Child trafficking is happening everywhere, not just India, not just China, but everywhere in the world and in every city in our States and in every town in the U.S. I continue to ask, why doesn't anyone talk about this and why isn't this front-page news? Maybe with the commitment of this committee, we can help make this front-page news.

From the Office of Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, I learned that human trafficking is a \$32 billion global industry. It is the fastest-growing criminal industry in the world today, second to only the drug trade. I also learned from the Department of State that, with all of the dedicated government and nongovernment organizations working to combat trafficking, there was still a great need for awareness and education. As a result, Innocents at Risk was formed.

Since 2004, Innocents at Risk has been working with the Department of State, leaders in Congress, such as Representative Carolyn Maloney and Congressman Chris Smith, as well as the diplomatic corps, corporations, the media, to educate the public about the horrors of trafficking. We have also built partners with NGOs throughout the U.S. and abroad. Together, I know we can make a difference.

As a result of one of our awareness events, 2 years ago, I met Sandra Fiorini, a senior flight attendant for American Airlines. Sandra came to our office and told me that she and other flight attendants often see suspicious activities in airports and on planes, and these very likely could be children that are being trafficked. She said, "We don't know what to do about it."

As a result, Innocents at Risk produced 10,000 brochures, basic information about how to recognize trafficking. It is called "Protecting Women and Children from Human Trafficking," and it contains the national hotline number, which is run extremely well by the Polaris Project.

Soon, a task force with Sandra and flight attendants sprung into action. We learned from these flight attendants much information. It was a major breakthrough. The flight attendants initiative grew, and we learned so much valuable information

we were passing it on to law enforcement.

There was information that, twice a week, from Moscow to Chicago, young girls were coming who thought they would be models. They had a one-way ticket. They didn't speak English, but they could also work in TV. Obviously, this wasn't going to happen. I informed DHS, a trusted NGO in Moscow, and the Association of Catholic Bishops working in Chicago. Together with law enforcement and these powerful NGOs, these lives were actually being saved.

This is a breakthrough. This is something we should continue. Learning about our flight attendant initiative in early 2009, John Ingham of DHS assembled together the correct players from DHS, ICE, and the FBI to meet with an American Airlines rep. The Polaris Project, Sandra Fiorini, and Innocents at Risk all at a table to discuss the best solutions of how we can deal with this wonderful, incredible resource of flight attendants who are now the first line of defense.

After meetings for 6 months, the Blue Lightning campaign, as it was renamed with DHS, established in all forms human trafficking and exploitation procedures that were really about to be put in place, to begin training all airline personnel in recognizing situations of human trafficking, to train customs agents, law enforcement at airports how to recognize and how to respond quickly, and to energize the intelligence community.

Passengers would receive acceptable information about human trafficking in corporate magazines, videos, and posters. Posters would be placed in the areas of customs. Identical training would also be available for the travel industry.

It was a tremendous accomplishment. Innocents at Risk applauds American Airlines for coming to the discussion table. And we congratulate the leadership of John Ingham for bringing everyone to establish a protocol. With all these talented and forceful individuals, we had a plan.

But, however, Blue Lightning is on hold. To date, Innocents at Risk is continuing our informal training. And, most importantly, we have a new partner, airline ambassadors, who -- I believe they are here today. And with airline ambassadors, bringing this effort and vital workforce of 6,000 members and corporate partners dedicated to preventing trafficking in the U.S. and around the world, we are making great headway. With their focus to stop child trafficking, we have had great success. We actually have a report of several instances that we would be happy to give the committee.

Calls to the hotline have been made, plans have been met by the authorities, and lives are being saved. However, this is only one fraction of the children we save. We need to do so much more. We need to train all the airline personnel. And today we are asking Congress, we are asking this committee, to help us. Help us fund the Blue Lightning campaign, help us all work together for this initiative, help us wake up America, open the eyes of the public. When I train flight attendants and flight attendants continue to train one another in various cities, I tell them, "Open your eyes. You will be amazed at what you see."

This is a tremendous task force. We invite the Commission to engage with us for a proposal because I think it is so vital. You wanted new ideas; this is a great new idea.

And I thank you for your time and thank you for having me today.

[The statement of Ms. Sigmund follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF DEBORAH SIGMUND

March 25, 2010

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Human Trafficking –
Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

I am Deborah Sigmund, Founder and Director of Innocent at Risk a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preventing child exploitation and child trafficking. I would like to thank the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission for asking me to be with you today to talk about THE GREATEST HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE OF THE 21ST CENTURY! – Human Trafficking!

I first learned about human trafficking in the summer of 2002 from a friend living in France. I learned that each year millions of women and children are coerced, tricked, drugged, kidnapped and sold into the underground world of the sex trade. I was horrified that this was happening yet no one spoke about it Child trafficking is happening EVERYWHERE not just in India or China, but everywhere in the world and in every city and town in the U.S. I continued to ask “Why doesn’t anyone know about this and WHY ISN’T THIS FRONT PAGE NEWS?”

From the office of Trafficking In Persons, Department of State, I learned that Human Trafficking is a \$32 billion dollar global industry. It is actually the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Second only to the drug trade and more lucrative than illegal arms. I learned from the Dept. of State in spite of the number of dedicated Government and Non Government organizations working to combat trafficking there was a great need for awareness and education about the issue. As a result, Innocents at Risk was formed. Since 2004 Innocents at Risk has been working with the Dept. of State, leaders in Congress such as Rep. Carolyn Maloney and Congressman Chris Smith, the Diplomatic Corp., Corporations and the media to educate the public about the horrors of the human trafficking. We built partnerships with NGO’s in the US and abroad

As the result of an awareness event two years ago, I met Sandra Fiorini, Senior Flight Attendant for American Airlines. Sandra told me that she and other flight attendants often see suspicious situations in the airports and in the air that could be children being trafficked. Sandra said, “We do not know what to do about it.” As a result, Innocents at Risk produced 10,000 “Protecting Woman and Children from Human Trafficking” brochures containing basic information of “How to Recognize Potential Victims” and containing the National Hotline Number 888.373.7888, run by The Polaris Project. Soon a task force of Sandra and flight attendants sprung into action. We learned from these flight attendants that much trafficking was taking place via commercial airlines. This was a major breakthrough and a real positive step for Prevention.

The flight attendants initiative grew and we learned valuable information from airport personal and specific information was given to the authorities. We were informed that twice a week there were young girls in a flight from Moscow to Chicago with one way tickets who were told they would be “models” or “work in TV” in NYC. I called DHS, a trusted NGO working in Moscow and the Association of Catholic Bishops working in Chicago. With law enforcement and the immediate attention of the NGO’s, lives were actually being saved.

Learning of The Flight Attendant Initiative, in early 2009, John Ingham of DHS assembled together the correct players from DHS, ICE and the FBI to meet with an American Airlines representative (Mike Wascom), The Polaris Project, Sandra Fiorini and Innocents at Risk to discuss how to mobilize this incredible resource of flight attendants who are “The First Line of Defense.”

After meeting for 6 months BLUE LIGHTNING CAMPAIGN was established to Denounce All Forms of Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Procedures were put in place. For example:

1. To begin training all Airline personal in recognizing situations of human trafficking.
2. To begin training Custom agents and Law enforcement how to recognize human trafficking and how to respond most effectively.
3. Passengers would receive acceptable information about human trafficking in corporate flight magazines, videos, and poster campaigns.
4. Identical training for the travel industry would be incorporated.

It was a tremendous accomplishment! Innocents at Risk applauds American Airlines for coming to the discussion table and we congratulate the leadership of John Ingham for bringing everyone together to establish a protocol to expand this talented force of individuals and agencies. HOWEVER, THE BLUE LIGHTNING CAMPAIGN IS NOW ON HOLD AS IT HAS NOT BEEN FUNDED...

To date, Innocents at Risk is continuing our informal training of flight attendants. We have Senior Flight Attendants based in Chicago, Miami, New York, Idaho, Atlanta, Ohio, Kentucky and Detroit who are training fellow flight attendants with our awareness brochures. We have partnered with Airline Ambassadors who bring this effort a vital work force of over 6, 000 members and corporate partners dedicated to preventing child trafficking in the U.S. and around the world. With their focus to stop child trafficking, we have already had some successes. Calls to the hotline had been made, planes have been met by the authorities and lives are being saved. However, this is ONLY A FRACTION OF CHILDREN WHO COULD BE SAVED.

We need to do more! We need to train ALL Airline personal. Today, we are asking Congress to help fund the efforts of Innocents at Risk and the entire Blue Lightning Campaign which is ready to go. Help us wake up America and “Open their Eyes” of the public to this horror happening all around us. IN THE NAME OF CHILDREN, today we ask for your support and funding to help us prevent more innocent lives from slipping away.

Thank you.

Deborah S. Sigmund, Founder
Innocents at Risk

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you so much.
Sandra Fiorini, a flight attendant, graduate of DHS Operation Blue Lightning, we welcome you here.

STATEMENT OF SANDRA FIORINI, FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Ms. FIORINI. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Sandra Fiorini, and I am an international flight attendant for American Airlines. I live in Arlington, Virginia, but I commute to Chicago and fly the international flights out of Chicago. My seniority number is 719, and I have flown with American for 39 years.

During my career with American, I have seen many instances of what I consider human trafficking. Never has there been any incident that was just like the other one. They were all different incidents, but there were always red flags that indicated something was not right. Most of us are parents, and when children of any age are involved we seem to be more keenly aware when these flags are raised in flight.

Just a few examples of what I have seen can enlighten you to what is happening every day on your local carrier, on your international carrier, even at your neighborhood. This isn't just on the plane.

We had an 18-year-old boy get on with a day-old baby. Now, the baby had one bottle, two diapers, no diaper bag. We knew, as moms, we know there is something wrong here. He is on a 5- or 6-hour flight. We all took turns sitting with him, playing like we are playing with the baby, but we are talking to him: Where are you going? Who is meeting you? Where did this baby come from? And he had a story, but it was full of holes. It wasn't a good story. The minute we landed, we called the police. This was a long time ago. They didn't respond. You know, they didn't care.

The next incident was, coming from London, I had three adults, one man and two women, and they had five children of all different nationalities, and they were 4 to 5 years old. Once again, "Oh, hi. Where are you going with these children?" "Oh, well, my wife and I have these two children, and then my sister over here has adopted three children from war-torn countries." "Oh. Where are you going?" "We are moving to America to give these children a better life." Well, you know, if you don't know anything about human trafficking, you would say, "Oh, aren't they wonderful? These are great people." Immediately I am on the phone, the minute we land, saying -- because I can, going through customs -- detain these people, make them prove who they are, make them show you birth certificates for these children, you know. No, I don't think that they -- I think they are trafficking those children. I would like to be wrong, but I think they are.

Deborah mentioned my flight from Moscow to Chicago. I would sit with the interpreter, and I would talk to the young girls on the plane. And they would all be so excited, and they would say, "We are coming to America. We are going to work on TV, and we are going to be models." "Where do you go after you get off of this airplane in Chicago?" "Oh, well, we have to ride a bus to New York City." "And what happens there?" "Well, then we become models and work on TV." They don't.

They are sold into prostitution, they are enslaved, they are probably handcuffed to a bed with an IV in their arm.

These girls do not want to be saved. They are coming from such a horrible place, and they are so excited. If I told them that was what was going to happen to them, they wouldn't believe me and they wouldn't want me to interfere in any way. That is why I can call this hotline number and report what I am seeing. And this brochure does work. This hotline number does work. When I called this number and reported what I was seeing, they placed an ICE agent, working from Russia inside Moscow, screening the flight to try to stop the flow of these young girls -- and boys. It is not just girls; 8- to 9-year-old boys coming over every day. Every day the flight is operating, this is going on.

So this brochure does work. And I am only one of 90,000 flight attendants. Every other flight attendant can tell you as many or more stories than I am telling you right now. Before I was involved with Innocents at Risk, I would call the local police. And most of the time, they wouldn't even respond. And if they did, they would say, what do you want me to do about it? And they would say, it is just your word against theirs. And I said, I want you to come and make a report, just make a report, and put it on file somewhere, so when this child or group of children turn up missing, you can start looking for them from this point. But there was nothing in place, nothing in place to do that.

With this brochure, I am able to brief my crews. I also brief the crews that are on the flights that I commute on. And I tell them to read this, talk about it, please put the hotline number in your cell phone, pass this on.

I wear this blue band, also provided by Innocents at Risk, that has the hotline number on it. If I think there is -- like on that Russia trip, if I thought those girls were in serious danger, I would give them one of these bracelets and say, "You might need this later. This number might come in handy." It is an invaluable tool that we have never had before, thanks to Innocents at Risk.

The flight attendants are your first line of defense against human trafficking. We see it. We see it every day. What I am trying to do is raise awareness within my workplace, with Deborah's help and these brochures, and to be able to spot it, just raise awareness, spot it and report what you are seeing.

I intend to keep working with Innocents at Risk and Blue Lightning until all the flight attendants are trained. We have only private donations now, and we are doing the best we can.

Thank you for listening.

[The statement of Ms. Fiorini follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SANDRA FIORINI

March 25, 2010

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Human Trafficking –
Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

Good morning my name is Sandra Fiorini and I am an international flight attendant with American Airlines. My seniority number is 719 and I have flown with American for 39 years. I would like to thank the House and Innocents at Risk for their opportunity to comment on Human trafficking. During my career with American Airlines I have seen many instances of human trafficking. While every instance has been different, there were always red flags that indicated that something was not

right. Most of us are parents and when children of any age are involved we seem to be more keenly aware when these flags are raised. A few examples I have seen can enlighten you to what is happening everyday:

1. 18 year old boy with newborn baby. No diaper bag, just one bottle and two diapers.
2. 3 adults of same nationality with 5 children of all different nationalities and same age (4-5 yrs old).
3. Prostitution tents at Redwood, CA campground. Men coming in and out.
4. Young girls 15-17yrs old coming over from Russia thinking they are going to be models and work on TV in NYC, even though they didn't speak any English. Moscow to Chicago direct flight.

Please remember I am just one of 90,000 flight attendants world wide. Think of all the stories the other 90,000 can tell. Before I was involved in Innocents at Risk, I would call the local police. They would respond it was my word against theirs and what did I want them to do about it. Of course I wanted them to respond and file a report, which they would not do. Innocents at Risk has created a brochure with the trafficking signs and the Hotline Number to call. This gives us a tool to report from the plane what we are seeing, which is the first step in prevention. Because of calling the hotline an ICE agent was assigned to work the Moscow to Chicago flight to prevent the daily flow of young boys and girls from Russia for the sex trade.

Flight attendants are the first line of defense against human trafficking. Innocents at Risk is pulling together with many government agency's in a coordinated effort under Blue Lightning. For two years I have been educating my crews with the Innocents at Risk Brochures and wristbands with the Hotline number. I am asking them to wear the bracelets and use the hotline number to report what they have seen and pass the brochure on to other flight attendants. During that time the hotline has reported a 30% increase in call from flight attendants. The general public is unaware of the positive results Innocents at Risk is making.

Flight attendants are an untapped work force that can combat this crime against woman and children. Innocents at Risk is raising awareness in my workplace. The small percentage of trained flight attendants are reporting what they encounter everyday. With funding we could educate the whole 90,000 person strong army of winged angels. I intend to keep working with Innocents at Risk until all 90,000 flight attendants are trained.

Thank you,
Sandra Fiorini, Senior Flight Attendant American Airlines

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you very much. We appreciate your testimony.

Finally, Selene Martin, the director of LexisNexis Cares. Welcome.

STATEMENT OF SELENE MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF LEXIS NEXIS CARE

Ms. MARTIN. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Selene Martin, and I am a member of the LexisNexis corporate responsibility team.

The origins of our corporate responsibility program began over 15 years ago with LexisNexis Cares, a way for employees to give back to our communities through volunteerism. Today, corporate responsibility at LexisNexis is much broader than community. It encompasses all aspects of how we behave as a company and how we partner with others to use our unique capabilities to make a greater impact. We manifest this commitment by advancing the rule of law, protecting and safeguarding children, and reducing our impact on the environment.

On behalf of LexisNexis, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to discuss our efforts around human trafficking, both here in the United States and around the world. I applaud the Commission for advocating for and raising awareness of these international human rights issues.

LexisNexis is a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, corporate, government, and academic markets. We serve customers in more than 100 countries, and we have 15,000 employees worldwide.

With approximately 2,000 lawyers among our ranks, we believe we are in a unique position to leverage our expertise, products, and solutions to advance the rule of law and combat human trafficking. Meaningful, sustainable economic and civic progress can only occur in societies where the rule of law exists. In the absence of the rule of law, the likelihood of human rights atrocities, such as the trafficking of persons against their will, is exacerbated.

We have employed a three-prong strategy that includes promoting awareness, victim support, and training. I would like to describe our efforts in these areas and highlight our partnerships with several key organizations.

Raising awareness is a key factor in our efforts to advance rule of law and combat human trafficking. To that end, we have joined together with Priority Films and the Red Light Children Campaign to premier "Holly," a full-length feature film based on the true stories of abducted children, some as young as 5 years old, forced to work in brothels in Cambodia.

Together we distributed "Holly" to 10 U.S. cities, as well as London, Sydney, and Vienna. Following each screening, we led panel discussions with experts and thought leaders, including State Department officials, NGOs, and attorneys providing direct representation to victims. LexisNexis also sponsored the distribution of "Holly" DVDs to U.S. consulates around the world in an effort to educate and raise awareness to local populations.

In June of this year, LexisNexis will again partner with Priority Films to

premier "Red Light," a highly acclaimed feature documentary on child sexploitation. This film depicts the personal stories of young Cambodian victims, as well as two remarkable advocates for change, Somaly Mam and Mu Sochua.

The second prong to our strategy is supporting organizations that provide services to victims of human trafficking. I would like to highlight our work with two such organizations, the Somaly Mam Foundation and the Polaris Project.

Somaly Mam was sold into sexual slavery when she was just 12 years old by someone portraying her grandfather. Eventually, she ended up in a Phnom Penh brothel, beginning a decade of horrific rape and torture. I have met Somaly many times and spent a lot of time with her, and she will tell you, "During that time, I was dead. I had no affection for anyone."

But with the help of a French aid worker, Somaly was able to escape and created a nonprofit organization called AFESIP in 1996. AFESIP works with local law enforcement to raid brothels and reintegrate the trafficked women and girls into society. Over the past 16 years, Somaly has rescued more than 4,000 women and girls and provided them with opportunities to lead a safe, healthy, and normal life.

LexisNexis partnered with Somaly Mam to create the U.S.-based Somaly Mam Foundation to facilitate the ability to raise funds and promote awareness of this issue in our United States. The foundation supports rescue, shelter, and rehabilitation programs across Southeast Asia and is viewed as a global leader in awareness and advocacy campaigns that shed light on the crime of sexual slavery.

Since its inception, LexisNexis has provided both financial and in-kind support to AFESIP and the Somaly Mam Foundation, specifically by donating computers and access to our research in support of their mission to end modern-day slavery.

In addition, LexisNexis supports the Polaris Project, right here in Washington, D.C. Polaris operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and 24/7 hotline. Polaris conducts direct outreach and victim identification and provides transitional housing and social services for thousands of victims right here in our United States.

In addition to financial support, LexisNexis has leveraged our expertise in database modeling and application development to create and implement a Web-based system providing immediate access to vital State-specific emergency contact information, enabling Polaris operators to expedite hotline calls, replacing multiple manual Excel spreadsheets.

Converting to an online, fully searchable database has dramatically increased the number of victims identified and served, streamlined the data management process, and provided a centralized solution for the receipt and process of distributing credible tips to law enforcement.

In 2009, more than 1,000 potential victims were referenced through the hotline. And, in recent months, Polaris operators have responded to up to 30 calls a day and more than 800 calls per month and growing.

The third prong of our strategy is training. LexisNexis, again in partnership with Polaris, has provided in-kind support in the way of printing training materials and the use of our facilities as training locations for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and other State and local officials.

We have also partnered with the American Bar Association on a symposium in October 2008 entitled, "Civil Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims," bringing together leading human rights law practitioners and advocates in an effort to provide training, resources, and assistance to attorneys serving as pro bono counsel to victims of human trafficking.

In closing, I would like to thank the Commission for allowing me to share our story with you today. LexisNexis remains committed to advancing the rule of law and to combat human trafficking, working in concert with key partners in this area to end the abuse and exploitation of the world's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you.

[The statement of Ms. Martin follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SELENE MARTIN

**Before the
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission
Hearing on
Human Trafficking: International and National Implications
March 25, 2010
Selene K. Martin
Director, LexisNexis Cares
LexisNexis Introduction**

Good morning. My name is Selene Martin. I am the Director of LexisNexis Cares for LexisNexis, a global solutions provider. On behalf of LexisNexis, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss our efforts to help combat human trafficking, both here in the United States as well as in countries throughout the world. I commend the Commission for focusing your efforts and resources on this very important issue.

LexisNexis® is a leading global provider of content-enabled workflow solutions designed specifically for professionals in the legal, risk management, corporate, government, law enforcement, accounting, and academic markets. LexisNexis serves customers in more than 100 countries with 15,000 employees worldwide.

Dedicated to corporate responsibility, LexisNexis works collaboratively to improve the lives of others in our local and global communities. Through the LexisNexis Cares program, each one of our employees is given up to four paid days each year to volunteer in the community in which they live and work. In addition to core volunteer activities, we encourage employees to use their professional skills to support non-profit organizations or provide pro bono legal services in partnership with law firms and legal aid organizations. LexisNexis employs approximately 2,000 lawyers and is in a unique position to leverage our expertise, products and solutions to make an impact in advancing the Rule of Law.

LexisNexis believes that meaningful, sustainable economic and civic progress can only occur in societies where the Rule of Law exists. An absence of the Rule of Law provides a breeding ground for many types of human rights atrocities, including human trafficking. LexisNexis is working through collaborative partnerships with law firms, NGOs, and government organizations to build legal capacity, drive awareness and advocate for victim support in the campaign against human trafficking. LexisNexis has employed a three-pronged strategy which includes 1) promoting awareness, 2) victim support, and 3) training. I would like to describe our efforts in each of these areas and highlight our partnerships with several key organizations.

Promoting Awareness

Raising awareness of the global trafficking issue is a key component to LexisNexis' efforts to advance the Rule of Law around the globe. LexisNexis has partnered with Priority Films and the Redlight Children Campaign to help raise awareness of this serious international problem.

The Redlight Children Campaign was founded by former New York attorney, Guy Jacobson. After an eye-opening sabbatical in 2002 where he was aggressively solicited for prostitution by a group of young girls being pimped in Cambodia (some as young as the age of 5), Jacobson began to gather a passionate group of advocates determined to protect children in threat of becoming part of the global sex trade. The Redlight Children Campaign aims to decrease demand for child sex trafficking through creating a legal framework that helps addresses the issue more effectively.

Jacobson, who had already founded Priority Films at the time of his sabbatical, realized he could utilize the power of mass media to help fight this epidemic and thus began to develop three films about child sex trafficking. While in development, he became further aware that his film and media efforts could be supplemented; using his background in law and economics he set out to create a comprehensive blueprint of action items for how to decrease all forms of child sex exploitation. The result was his newly-founded NGO, the Redlight Children Campaign. For his tireless efforts, Jacobson was honored by the U.S. State Department in 2008 with the prestigious Global Hero award.

In 2007, LexisNexis had the rare opportunity to partner with Priority Films and the Redlight Children Campaign to distribute "Holly" to 10 major U.S. cities as well as to Vienna and Sydney. "Holly," a full length feature film based on the true stories of abducted children in Cambodia, stars Ron Livingston, Virginie Ledoyan and the late Chris Penn. It was through these film screenings that LexisNexis brought together a forum of attorneys, government officials, NGOs, law students and academia to learn about and identify solutions for combating human trafficking. Panel experts included State Department officials, NGOs and attorneys providing direct representation to victims of human trafficking. Guy Jacobson was also present on every panel. In addition, LexisNexis sponsored the distribution of DVDs to U.S. consulates around the world so that they could better educate

their staff about human trafficking. In June 2010, LexisNexis will have the opportunity again to partner with Priority Films on the world premier of "Redlight," the highly-acclaimed feature documentary on child sexploitation. The film focuses on personal stories of young Cambodian victims and two remarkable advocates for change: Somaly Mam and Mu Sochua. Through the support and efforts of LexisNexis, "Redlight" will continue to raise awareness in cities across the U.S. and internationally in an effort to create a public/private coalition to help eradicate this global epidemic.

Victim Support Providing support to the victims of human trafficking is another important facet to LexisNexis' ongoing campaign. I would like to highlight LexisNexis' partnership with three organizations providing support to victims of human trafficking: The Somaly Mam Foundation, Polaris Project and My Sister's Place.

The Somaly Mam Foundation The Somaly Mam Foundation was founded by Somaly Mam, who was sold into sexual slavery when she was 12 years old by a man who posed as her grandfather. She eventually ended up in a Phnom Penh brothel, beginning a decade of horrific rape and torture. She describes this period of her life simply: "I was dead. I had no affection for anyone."

But Somaly Mam was able to escape. With the help of an aid worker from France, she fled Cambodia in 1993. In 1996, just three years following her heroic escape, Mam created a nonprofit organization called AFESIP (Agir pour les Femmes en Situation Précaire, or Acting for Women in Distressing Circumstances) that works with local law enforcement to raid brothels and reintegrate the trafficked women into society. It is estimated that between 1.2 and 2 million people are currently being held as sex slaves around the world. Mam, now 38, has established a model for addressing this issue and has already helped more than 4,000 women and children escape the brothels.

When LexisNexis sat down to talk to Somaly Mam in 2007, we were captivated by her story and felt compelled to help. Instead of asking for money to support her programs, she asked for help in the form of LexisNexis employees with skill and experience in areas such as human resources, management and development of staff, marketing and fundraising, strategy and technology. Thus the Somaly Mam Task Force was born with representation from LexisNexis employees around the globe as well as a handful of Mam's key staff based in Cambodia. This joint effort helped Mam and her team increase capacity to serve victims of human trafficking in her three Cambodian shelters as well as helped to build the base for the successful launch of the US-based Somaly Mam Foundation in 2007.

Today, LexisNexis is represented on the organization's board of directors and the current Executive Director is a former LexisNexis executive whose passion for Somaly's work moved him to leave his role at LexisNexis and pursue leading the Somaly Mam Foundation. The Somaly Mam Foundation supports rescue, shelter and rehabilitation programs across South East Asia, and is viewed as a global leader in awareness and advocacy campaigns that shed light on the crime of sexual slavery and focus on getting the public and governments involved in the fight to abolish modern day slavery.

Since 2007, LexisNexis has provided both cash and in kind support to AFESIP and the Somaly Mam Foundation, specifically donating computers and other equipment to NGO staff, providing research support on the issues surrounding human trafficking, and engaging LexisNexis volunteers in direct and virtual support of Mam's work. LexisNexis employees in locations such as Singapore, Toronto and cities across the United States have conducted outreach in support of the women and children in Mam's shelters, bringing a smile and sense of hope to these victims.

The Polaris Project

LexisNexis has also partnered with the Polaris Project, an NGO based in Washington, DC, whose vision is for a world without slavery. Named after the North Star that guided slaves toward freedom along the Underground Railroad, Polaris Project has been combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery since 2002 and is one of the few organizations working to eradicate all forms of trafficking. It serves both U.S. citizens and foreign national victims, including men, women and children.

Polaris Project conducts direct outreach and victim identification; provides social services and transitional housing to victims; operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), a national 24/7 hotline on human trafficking; advocates for stronger state and federal anti-trafficking legislation; and engages community members in local and national grassroots efforts. Since its inception, Polaris Project has come to the aid of thousands of human trafficking victims.

Leveraging expertise in database modeling and application development, LexisNexis worked with Polaris Project to develop and implement a new Web-based system that offers faster access to information and makes it easier for its NHTRC hotline employees to manage data more effectively. The system also helps increase the number of victims identified, the number of survivors receiving critical social services, and the number of traffickers brought to justice.

Through the LexisNexis partnership with the Polaris Project, we have helped the organization advance its National Human Trafficking Resource Center, through innovative LexisNexis analytics solutions. Prior to using the LexisNexis designed database, Polaris Project relied on information in disparate spreadsheets, making it difficult to access, maintain, and share vital information.

During the past two years, resources at the center have become increasingly strained, as call volume has grown two to three times that of previous years, highlighting the critical need for these services and infrastructure improvements. In 2009, over 1,000 potential victims were referenced through the NHTRC hotline. In recent months, Polaris call takers have responded to up to 30 calls per day, and more than 800 calls per month. The U.S. Department of Justice, as well as the Department of Homeland Security, regularly consult and partner with Polaris on this initiative. Law enforcement officials from around the United States have said that through the hotline, Polaris brings more quality and credible leads than traditional law enforcement systems of identifying trafficking victims.

As part of our significant commitment to combating human trafficking and advancing the Rule of Law around the world, LexisNexis supports Polaris Project through direct financial aid,

legal and technical advice, and research. In addition to our work with the hotline, LexisNexis is partnering with Polaris to provide support to ensure that law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other state and local law enforcement officials receive training on "Human Trafficking 101" and "Investigative Training for Human Trafficking Cases".

In addition, we have participated in state-level anti-trafficking efforts (e.g., an Ohio Statehouse Forum on Human Trafficking) and supported state-level legislation and public awareness events (e.g., a Wittenberg University Human Trafficking Forum).

My Sister's Place

My Sister's Place (MSP) advocates for the human rights of domestic violence and human trafficking victims in West Chester County, New York. Founded in 1978, My Sister's Place supports victims through advocacy, community education and victim services. In addition to serving domestic violence victims, My Sister's Place is currently the Human Trafficking Service Provider for the New York Hudson Valley Region. My Sister's Place programs and services include:

- Two emergency shelters;
- 24-hour hotline for assistance and referrals;
- Extensive support group network in both English and Spanish;
- Full-service Legal Center providing advice and representation in family law and immigration matters;
- Comprehensive children's services;
- Outreach to healthcare workers; and
- Life skills program that includes job training.

LexisNexis volunteers have conducted a technology assessment of their White Plains operations, donated computers and other equipment for use by MSP staff, and provided a team of employee volunteers to plan and execute a wildly successful awareness and fundraising event held this past month providing MSP with the opportunity to share their story with more than 500 attendees from the New York area, including law firms, public interest organizations, corporations, political officials and community members.

My Sister's Place, Somaly Mam Foundation and LexisNexis have recently announced a partnership to leverage the strength of each organization to end domestic violence and human trafficking in the United States. At this year's gala, the organization honored Somaly Mam for her tireless advocacy for, and support to, the girls in her Cambodian shelters as well as trafficking victims here in the United States.

Training

ABA National Training Institute

In October 2008, LexisNexis partnered with the American Bar Association National Training Institute on a symposium in Washington, DC to discuss Civil Remedies for Human Trafficking Victims, bringing together leading human rights law practitioners and advocates in an effort to provide training, resources and assistance to attorneys seeking to provide counsel to, and to enforce the rights of, victims of human trafficking through civil actions in our nation's courts. Symposium topics included:

- The State of Human Trafficking: Prevention, Prosecution and Protection
- Who Are Adult Victims of Human Trafficking?
- Special Considerations for Child Trafficking Victims
- Intersection of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking
- Building Understanding Among Civil and Criminal Attorneys
- Collaboration in Representing Victims of Human Trafficking
- Introduction to Litigating Human Trafficking Cases Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and State Trafficking Civil Statutes
- Litigating Human Trafficking Cases: Labor Law Claims, Tort Claims and Other State Claims
- Promising Practices in Pro Bono Representation and Coordination

Today, we continue our work with both the American and International Bar Associations to advance Rule of Law globally, increase the capacity for pro bono and ensure access to justice for our most vulnerable populations. In addition to collaborating with public-private partners on symposiums and other awareness raising events, LexisNexis employees (from our General Counsel to other leaders throughout the company) volunteer their time serving on various boards and committees, leveraging our company resources to advance these important initiatives.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank the Commission for highlighting this human rights atrocity and allowing me to share our story with you today. LexisNexis is dedicated to working collaboratively with partner organizations around the globe to end the abuse and exploitation of the most vulnerable populations. Women, children and migrant victims of human trafficking deserve full access to justice. Rule of Law demands it. We stand ready to partner with and provide support to this Commission to build legal capacity, drive awareness and support key NGOs providing victim services in an effort to address the growing problem of human trafficking around the globe.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Thank you.

First, let me thank all of you for your incredible work. I mean, this is unbelievable stuff that you are doing. And I think on behalf of the entire Commission, we are very, very grateful.

I have just a couple of questions. Ms. Jessup, you spoke about the Girls Bill of Rights and how it changed behaviors. What is in the Bill of Rights, and how have you found that it changes behavior?

Ms. JESSUP. The Bill of Rights is 24 rights, such as "I have the right to assert my right at any time," "I have the right to disagree with my date." It goes from anything -- there are 24 of them. It just gives girls a reminder of what their rights are.

And what this does is, every time we show the film at a presentation, girls, they hear it and this veil lifts for them, saying, I have a right. And they come up after, saying, I can defend myself now, I can go stand up and work against being abused at home, I can do this stuff. And you can see the change in them from becoming submissive girls to actually being active and proud to be a girl and be strong.

Cochairman McGOVERN. That is great. Thank you.

Deborah Sigmund, the book you held up, so Innocents at Risk, you did that all, right?

Ms. SIGMUND. We did. We did.

Cochairman McGOVERN. I guess I am wondering, why hasn't the Department of Homeland Security or somebody helped underwrite all that and get it to every single person?

Ms. SIGMUND. Well, that is a good idea. We would like your help in making that happen.

Cochairman McGOVERN. No, I mean, I am listening to Sandra Fiorini talk about all these instances where she has witnessed people being brought into this country, I mean, whether it is young children or women who want to be models in New York, and it is very clear what the deal is. I mean, every single flight attendant should have that book.

Ms. SIGMUND. Well, we are doing our best right now.

Ms. FIORINI. That is our goal.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Well, how many Sandra Fiorinis are there? I mean, how many people have this and know this? I mean, is it --

Ms. SIGMUND. I would imagine -- Innocents at Risk has senior flight attendants based in Chicago, Miami, New York, Idaho, Atlanta, Ohio, Kentucky, Detroit, and then now with our partnership with airline ambassadors.

Nancy, are you here?

Airline ambassadors, it is a huge task force. So they have already begun the training, and we need to get one of these in every single flight attendant's hand.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Well, after this, you should talk with our staff about specifically how we can be of help. Because it seems to me that, you know, the best time to be able to stop this is at the very beginning, rather than sometime, you know, in the middle or the end of this terrible ordeal.

Ms. SIGMUND. Exactly. Well, that is what is so exciting about it.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Well, I want to applaud you for that.

You mentioned, I think you said Blue Lightning is on hold. What do you

mean by that?

Ms. SIGMUND. Well, knowing the strength of this task force -- I mean, there are 19,000 American flight attendants. And I realized the information that they were giving us was so important that we were actually able to prevent trafficking from happening. So I went to DHS, and John Ingham is the one that was in charge of bringing everyone together, from, well, our partners with Polaris, American Airlines Corporation, then we brought in the FBI, ICE, DHS, huge, TSA -- well, Homeland Security is DHS -- a human trafficking smuggling center. I mean, there were 25 people at this meeting. And it was the best-case scenario, what to do when a flight attendant tells a pilot, "I suspect trafficking on this plane," and it was down to a science.

And I can tell you that I have been on missions with Airline Ambassadors. And half of our group was on a plane from Santo Domingo -- this was in October of this year -- to JFK, and they had heard 3 days of training from me about how to recognize victims. These are corporate members, and they were not all flight attendants. The CEO was with us. But the CEO, actually, of Airline Ambassadors left a day early. The last thing I said to her was, "Patty, keep your eyes open." And she said, "What do you mean?" I said, "Where is your blue brochure, and where is your bracelet with the hotline number on it?" She goes, "Oh, okay."

So we all left to go visit an orphanage to deliver aid that was donated by Airline Ambassadors. That evening, we all had in the group six calls from Patty. She goes, "Oh, my gosh, you were right. When you know it is not right, it is there, it is in front of you. I saw a man getting on the plane. He actually asked me to watch his luggage while he held this little girl, who was about 5. He ran around the corner and he drugged her." And he came back and -- he was also saying that the little girl was 2.

So she told the flight attendant, which was a Delta flight attendant, "I am Patty McPeak, CEO of Airline Ambassadors. I am on this task force. I have been trained to recognize trafficking. This little girl I know is being trafficked." And the flight attendant immediately was like, "Well, I don't know." She said, "Please tell the pilot. If you don't, I will report you." And the plane was met, and they separated the little girl. The flight attendant came back to Patty, and, with tears in her eyes, she goes, "Oh, my gosh. I am so glad you were on the flight because you were right."

That is one story. I mean, we have heard hundreds from flight attendants, hundreds and hundreds of stories.

Cochairman McGOVERN. I guess the other question is, what happens to that little girl? Or what happens to the women who are found that have been drugged and have been used, you know, as sex slaves? Are we responding in the appropriate way? I mean, we are not deporting people, are we?

Ms. SIGMUND. No, we do not deport them. And, obviously, because of Congressman Chris Smith, there is a Protect Act.

But I am very comforted to know that from ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, they are very victim-centered with their approach. They have abilities and the budget to take care of those children.

Cochairman McGOVERN. So when people call this number, they are getting a good response from ICE?

Ms. SIGMUND. Just yesterday, I want you to know that I was talking to several flight attendants who are working under our training, and a flight attendant called me at 5 o'clock. And she said, you won't believe this, but I was on a flight from Detroit to Memphis. And, before the plane had even taken off, it was taxiing, and she said, I couldn't believe it, she said, I am asking, why is this little boy on the floor with a blanket over him? And the woman goes, oh, he is sick. And she said, well, I am sorry, he has to sit in the seat. And the woman goes, well -- so she said when she saw him get up, his eyes were rolling backwards like he had clearly been drugged. And the woman said, what is wrong with this child? She said, well, we had to give him medication. Well, as a mother, there is no medication to make your child's eyes roll backwards.

So she told the pilot, and he said, what do you want me to do? She asked where the prescription was for the medication because she wanted to check it out. And the pilot said, we will go search the luggage. And she said, no. She said, I have a better idea, I am going to call the hotline. And she did, and they met the plane. And I don't know the results, but the plane was met. And that is a pretty great response from the hotline.

So they know, when a flight attendant calls, it is pretty serious. And they have all been trained. They don't want to waste anyone's time. And they are doing their job.

Cochairman McGOVERN. You mentioned the special class of visas to protect trafficking victims, the T visas, which is a provision of the Trafficking Act. As far as everyone knows here, they are working the way they are supposed to work?

Ms. SIGMUND. Yes, as far as we know. We just need more people to help us with awareness and more brochures.

Cochairman McGOVERN. If you want to know more about Innocents at Risk, it is www.InnocentsAtRisk.org?

Ms. SIGMUND. Yes, it is.

Cochairman McGOVERN. And, Dallas, what about Just Yell Fire, if people want to --

Ms. JESSUP. JustYellFire.org.

Cochairman McGOVERN. All right.

And let me just say this. I want to thank you very much for the work you are doing. I met Somaly. And her book, "The Road of Lost Innocence," she gave me a copy of it, and it is just a heartbreaking story that she tells. And it is just amazing that someone who has gone through all that she has gone through has kind of picked up the pieces and is going to make sure that no one else has to go through what she has. And I appreciate very much all the work that you have done to help her out and to help promote her cause.

And you mentioned the Polaris group. And Frank Wolf and I were talking about the fact that we are all talking about trafficking from outside this country, but right here in Washington, D.C., you know, there are things that we can do better. And maybe we can kind of hook up with them at some point and kind of get a firsthand look at what is happening here in D.C. and maybe bring some people together just even in this area and figure out how we can do a better job.

Because, again, when I saw that -- I keep on going back to that film. I don't

know why. I just can't get it out of my mind.

Ms. MARTIN. It is compelling.

Cochairman McGOVERN. But it is just like -- I mean, it doesn't seem like it is that hard to be able to find where this is happening right here in the United States, and yet we are not stopping it. And it continues to be a very lucrative business for criminal organizations making lots of money off of it.

And, as you said, Deborah Sigmund, in every single city, in every single town, I mean, this is a huge problem. And, again, I want to thank Chris Smith and others who have been a leader on this. But I think we need to figure out a way to do a better job here at home.

Ms. MARTIN. Thank you, Congressman. And let me reiterate, LexisNexis stands ready to work directly with you and all of the partners that are engaged in collaborating to end human trafficking.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Well, I will yield now to my colleague, Chris Smith.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Chairman, again, thank you for pulling us together for this very important hearing.

And this is the panel of frontline protectors and defenders of women and children from trafficking. And I am just in awe of the work you are doing, and thank you for it.

The LexisNexis searches that we do will never be the same after knowing the good work that you are doing, and I congratulate you on that.

You know, Mr. Chairman, as you probably know, last year in May, Shared Hope International released their report, pursuant to the 2005 Act, and it was devastating about what is going on within our own country. 100,000 juveniles, mostly young girls, are exploited sexually every year on our streets. The average age is 13, according to the report.

And I am so glad, you know, that Dallas Jessup is doing the work she is doing to empower these young women to know that the boundaries are theirs to advance, and they need to do it and to empower them. So thank you for that great work.

And I would just say to Ms. Fiorini that my brother is a retired airline captain from American, a 757 pilot. And, you know -- a question. You know, you have answered most of the questions. You are doing the everyday hard work of protecting. But what would it take, in your view, to, in addition to "fasten your seat belts and no smoking," that little infomercial every one of us sees, to have a 30-second to a minute infomercial about trafficking throughout the entire airline industry, what would that take?

Ms. FIORINI. That is what it would take. It would take one of those or an article or disclaimer in a magazine. It would take that. And it would take --

Mr. SMITH. But what could we do to advance that, to make sure that happens?

Ms. FIORINI. We are working with Mike Wascom, and he is the government liaison with American Airlines. And I do want to see American Airlines branded as being one of the forerunners in doing this.

And it would be the magazine, maybe a video, and also training -- this would be worldwide, incorporating this into your every yearly training. Everyone goes

through emergency training every year. And I think it is something that maybe has to be mandated by the government.

Mr. SMITH. Well, I am thinking of legislation that perhaps would require that or at least look at the feasibility of it.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Will the gentleman yield for me?

Mr. SMITH. Oh, sure.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Maybe, pending that legislation, those of us on this committee should actually write to the heads of all these airlines. I mean, it doesn't seem like, you know, a very expensive proposition to be able to put something in a magazine or even on a video. It doesn't sound like it is that great of an imposition. But given the extent of this problem, maybe we could, through simply a letter -- or get them to tell us why they can't do it.

Mr. SMITH. It could also empower passengers, as they are sitting there and somebody says something a little bit more than what they intended to say about, who is this?

Ms. SIGMUND. May I just add that that was in the plan with Operation Blue Lightning. So it is DHS that was working with Mike Wascom at American. So if American will do it, other airlines will follow.

We have not had a lot of -- and the State Department will agree that they have not had a lot of luck when you go to the CEOs of the airlines, that they really don't want to talk about this issue. But now they cannot deny that their flight attendants are going forward because, according to them, they are doing their job.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you for doing that.

Ms. SIGMUND. We are happy that Mike Wascom is at the table. And that is in the plan. We just need some help for funding.

Mr. SMITH. We will do everything we can. I think that is something we can link arm in arm with and do. So thank you.

Ms. SIGMUND. Thank you.

Cochairman McGOVERN. Well, I want to thank you all. This is a really wonderful panel. And I appreciate all of your work. And we want to do some follow-up with you, so if our staffs can contact you on this issue about having the airlines provide more information to passengers and to airline attendants, we would like to work on that and see whether we can be helpful. And we will follow up with the Department of Homeland Security.

And before I close, I want to thank Elizabeth Hoffman and her team. And I want to thank, particularly, Allison McGuire, who was our point person on this hearing, and Hans Hogrefe, who has been incredible, and everybody else.

But thank you very much. And this was a very powerful presentation. Thank you.

The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:56 p.m., the Commission was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD



**Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (TLHRC)
Hearing Notice**

Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

**10 a.m. – noon
Thursday, March 25
2255 Rayburn HOB**

Human trafficking is one of the most serious threats to the protection of human rights, as it exploits the most vulnerable populations in the most vulnerable circumstances in a predatory manner, both within and across international borders. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA; P.L. 106 – 386) defines human trafficking as inducing a person to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any persons under age 18 who perform a commercial sex act are considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present. People who are trafficked are denied basic freedoms, are extremely vulnerable to global health risks, and are sold and resold within rapidly spreading organized crime networks.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates at least 12.3 million children and adults are in forced labor, bonded labor, and commercial sex servitude at any given time. INTERPOL estimates human trafficking to be a \$28 billion enterprise. The most comprehensive and far-reaching governmental report in the United States is the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which was mandated in the TVPA. The primary objective of this report is to "[free] victims from this form of modern-day slavery." The legislation further requires the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) to promote global awareness regarding human trafficking, to develop country-specific strategies to help foreign governments to better tackle the problem of trafficking, and to classify their accomplishments or failures to adhere to minimum standards in a tier system.

To discuss these issues we welcome the following witnesses:

- **Ambassador Luis CdeBaca**, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking In Persons, *U.S. Department of State*
- **Timothy Williams**, Director, *INTERPOL* – Washington, D.C.
- **Dallas Jessup**, Founder, *Just Yell Fire*
- **Deborah Sigmund**, Director, *Innocents at Risk*
- **Sandra Fiorini**, Flight Attendant, Graduate of DHS "Operation Blue Lightning"
- **Selene Martin**, Director, *LexisNexis Cares*

If you have any questions, please contact Hans Hogrefe (Rep. McGovern) or Elizabeth Hoffman (Rep. Wolf) at 202-225-3599.

/s/James P. McGovern, M.C.
Co-Chair, TLHRC

/s/Frank R. Wolf, M.C.
Co-Chair, TLHRC

Trafficking in Persons Report 2010: Country Narrative Vietnam

to repatriated trafficking victims during the reporting period.

Prevention

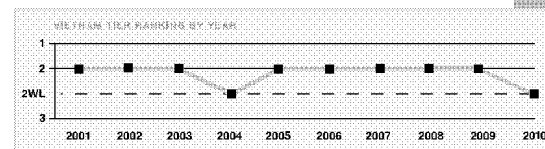
The Venezuelan government maintained efforts to prevent human trafficking over the year by conducting some public awareness campaigns about the dangers of human trafficking. The government continued to operate a national 24-hour hotline through which it received trafficking complaints. However, NGOs reported it frequently does not work or is not answered. The government aired public service announcements and distributed materials to raise awareness about commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Authorities collaborated with NGOs and international organizations on other anti-trafficking efforts, but relations with these organizations were reportedly mixed. The lack of a central coordinating body for the government's anti-trafficking efforts led to difficulties in obtaining comprehensive information about the government's anti-trafficking activities. The extent of anti-trafficking training provided to government officials was unclear. Lower-level government officials acknowledge human trafficking is a problem in the country. No specific activities to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts or forced labor were reported during the year.

VIETNAM (Tier 2 Watch List)

Vietnam is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically conditions of forced prostitution and forced labor. Vietnam is a source country for men and women who migrate abroad for work through predominantly state-affiliated and private labor export companies in the construction, fishing, and manufacturing sectors primarily in Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, China, and Japan, as well as in Thailand, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Russia, and the Middle East, and some of these workers subsequently face conditions of forced labor. Vietnamese women and children subjected to forced prostitution throughout Asia are often misled by fraudulent labor opportunities and sold to brothels on the borders of Cambodia, China, and Laos, with some eventually sent to third countries, including Thailand and Malaysia. Vietnamese labor export companies, most of which are state-affiliated, may charge workers in excess of the fees allowed by law, sometimes as much as \$10,000 to recruitment agencies for the opportunity to work abroad, incurring some of the highest debts among Asian expatriate workers, making them highly vulnerable to debt bondage and forced labor, and upon arrival in destination countries, some workers find themselves compelled to work in substandard conditions for little or no pay and no credible avenues of legal recourse.

Reports indicate that some recruitment companies did not allow workers to read their contracts until the day before they were scheduled to depart the country and

after they had already paid significant recruitment fees; some workers reported signing contracts in languages they could not read. There have been documented cases of recruitment companies being unresponsive to workers' requests for assistance in situations of exploitation. There are reports that the global economic crisis has led to the early termination of some contracts and the early return of some migrants to Vietnam with significant outstanding debts, placing them at risk of forced labor. There are also reports of some Vietnamese children trafficked internally and also abroad for forced labor. Vietnamese women and children are transported to locations throughout Asia for forced prostitution, often misled by fraudulent labor opportunities and sold to brothels on the borders of Cambodia and China, with some eventually sent to third countries, including Thailand and Malaysia. In both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, debt bondage, confiscation of identity and travel documents, and threats of deportation are utilized to intimidate victims. Some Vietnamese women migrating to China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and increasingly to South Korea as part of internationally brokered marriages are subsequently subjected to conditions of forced labor or forced prostitution or both. Cambodian children and Vietnamese children from rural areas are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation, forced street hawking, and forced begging in the major urban centers of Vietnam, often as a part of organized crime rings, and some Vietnamese children are victims of forced and bonded labor in urban family-run house factories. Vietnam is a destination for child sex tourism with perpetrators reportedly coming from Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Australia, Europe, and the United States, though the problem is not believed to be widespread.



The Government of Vietnam does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. While the government continued efforts to combat cross-border sex trafficking and made efforts to protect some victims of trafficking, it did not show evidence of progress in criminally prosecuting and criminally punishing labor trafficking offenders and protecting victims of all forms of trafficking, particularly victims of labor trafficking and internal trafficking; therefore, Vietnam is placed on Tier 2 Watch List. The government has never reported prosecuting a case of labor trafficking. The government has promoted increased labor exports as a way to address

unemployment and alleviate poverty, and as a source of remittances, but it has not put into place adequate measures to protect the rights of Vietnamese migrant workers or taken adequate measures to prevent new incidents of labor trafficking, such as the implementation of adequate laws to regulate labor recruitment companies. Additionally, the government has not made efforts to address the problem of internal trafficking in Vietnam.

Recommendations for Vietnam: Criminally prohibit and prescribe punishment for labor trafficking offenses; criminally prosecute those involved in forced labor, the recruitment of persons for the purpose of labor exploitation, or fraudulent labor recruitment; develop formal procedures for the identification of labor trafficking victims, relying on recognized indicators of forced labor, such as the confiscation of travel documents by employers or labor brokers; identify Vietnamese migrant workers who have been subjected to forced labor and provide them with victim services; increase efforts to protect Vietnamese workers going abroad for work through labor export companies; ensure that state-licensed recruitment agencies do not engage in fraud or charge illegal commissions for overseas employment; take measures to ensure that victims of labor trafficking are not threatened or otherwise punished for protesting labor conditions or for leaving their place of employment, in Vietnam or abroad; ensure victim protection and assistance services are provided to male victims and victims of labor trafficking; ensure the workers have effective legal redress from labor trafficking; make greater efforts to work closely with destination governments to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases, including labor trafficking cases; improve interagency cooperation on anti-trafficking efforts; and implement and support a visible anti-trafficking awareness campaign directed at clients of the sex trade.

Prosecution

The Vietnamese government demonstrated some law enforcement efforts to combat trafficking in persons for transnational sex trafficking, although government statistics include some non-trafficking crimes, such as abduction and selling of children for adoption. The government did not, however, report any investigations or prosecutions of cases of internal trafficking or the labor trafficking of Vietnamese citizens. While statutes in Penal Code Article 119 can be used to prosecute some forms of trafficking and were expanded this year to include male victims of trafficking, existing laws do not adequately cover all forms of trafficking, including labor trafficking and the recruitment and harboring of trafficking victims. The majority of traffickers are prosecuted under Articles 119 and 120 of the Penal Code, which can be used to prosecute a variety of related crimes. Vietnamese law does not include provisions for attempts to commit a trafficking offense, participating as an accomplice, and organizing or directing other persons to commit an offense. During the year, the government acknowledged

that the problem of labor trafficking exists, as does the trafficking of men, and the National Assembly voted to expand trafficking-related laws to include men. However, it did not take action to identify labor trafficking cases. Vietnamese labor laws do not provide criminal penalties for labor trafficking.

Contract disputes between Vietnamese workers and their Vietnam-based export labor recruitment companies or companies overseas are left almost entirely to the export labor recruiting company to resolve. Although workers have the legal right to take cases to court, in practice few have the resources to do so, and there is no known record of a Vietnamese labor trafficking victim successfully achieving compensation in court; thus, workers are, in practice, left without reasonable legal recourse. The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) reported that in 2009, 98 labor recruitment companies were fined a total of \$10,900 and two firms had their licenses revoked. However, the government did not report investigating prosecuting or convicting any offenders of labor trafficking during the reporting period. The Vietnam's Supreme People's Court reported that police in 2009 investigated 183 cases of sex trafficking involving 440 alleged offenders and convicted 360 individuals of sex trafficking offenses; however, these statistics are based on Articles 119 and 120 of the Vietnamese Penal Code, which include crimes other than trafficking, including human smuggling and child abduction for adoption. Most individuals convicted were sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to seven years' imprisonment. The government did not report any prosecutions or convictions of internal trafficking in Vietnam. Trafficking-related corruption occurred at the local level, where officials at border crossings and checkpoints take bribes to look the other way, though the government has never reported any investigations or prosecutions of officials for trafficking-related complicity.

Protection

The Vietnamese government continued some efforts to protect cross-border sex trafficking victims, but authorities need to improve efforts to identify or protect victims of labor trafficking or internal trafficking. The government did not employ systematic procedures nationwide to proactively and effectively identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable populations, such as women arrested for prostitution and migrant workers returning from abroad, and victim identification efforts remained poor across all identified migration and trafficking streams. Border guards and police at the district and provincial levels received limited training about identification of trafficking victims and handling of cases, which in some cases improved some officers' ability to monitor and investigate trafficking cases, but the lack of adequate training reportedly led to poor investigations and techniques that were harmful to some victims. Vietnam's National Steering Committee on Trafficking in Persons reported that 250 Vietnamese

victims were identified by Vietnamese and foreign police, and 500 victims were identified and repatriated by foreign governments, 100 of whom were trafficked to South Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore; however, Vietnamese statistics include some cases in which children were abducted and sold for adoption, a crime not recognized as trafficking under U.S. laws.

The government did not provide adequate legal protection or assistance to the estimated 500,000 Vietnamese workers abroad from conditions of forced labor. During the year, there were numerous reports of overcharging by labor export companies. In a few cases, authorities ordered companies to return overcharged fees to workers. During the reporting period, the government signed three new agreements with Libya, the United Arab Emirates, and Canada to provide Vietnamese laborers, but it is unknown whether agreements signed with governments of demand countries had provisions to prevent human trafficking and protect trafficking victims. Vietnam does not maintain Embassies in many countries where there are reports of trafficking and often responded weakly to protect migrant workers; diplomats were often reportedly unresponsive to complaints of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking by migrant workers. Government regulations do not prohibit labor export companies from withholding the passports of workers in destination countries and companies were known to withhold workers' travel documents, a known contributor to trafficking. Vietnamese workers do not have adequate legal recourse to file complaints in court against labor recruitment companies in cases where they may have been the victim of trafficking. In December 2009, a Hanoi court reportedly dismissed a civil suit filed against four labor export companies by a number of alleged labor trafficking victims sent to Jordan in 2008. There is no known record of a labor trafficking victim ever receiving recourse through civil courts in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Women's Union (VWU), in partnership with NGOs, ran eight shelters in three provinces that provided counseling and vocational training to female sex trafficking victims. However, the government lacks the resources and technical expertise to adequately support shelter systems, and as a result, in many areas shelter systems are rudimentary, underfunded, and lack appropriately trained personnel. There are no shelters or services specifically equipped to assist male victims of trafficking or victims of labor trafficking. Existing shelters' services were targeted to assist female sex trafficking victims; the government called upon ministries and agencies providing services to trafficking victims to extend those services to men. One NGO reported that Vietnamese border guards referred five male labor trafficking victims to a victim reception center that provided health support and vocational training. Authorities reported that repatriated Vietnamese victims who were officially identified by authorities as victims were not penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked. The government has a

system in place to identify victims of cross-border sex trafficking, but does not have a comprehensive system to identify victims of internal trafficking or labor trafficking from among vulnerable groups. Some labor trafficking victims report that authorities did not assist in their attempts to collect refunded service charges in instances of early termination that was not the fault of the workers through the civil courts system. The government reportedly encourages victims to assist in the prosecution of their traffickers, but there was no data on the number of victims involved in prosecutions during the reporting period. Victims are often reluctant to participate in investigations or trials due to social stigma, fear of retribution in their local communities, and lack of incentives for participation and witness protection. There are no legal alternatives for the removal of foreign victims to countries where they face retribution or hardship. In 2009, the Ministry of Public Security, with assistance from an NGO, developed guidelines to protect trafficking victims during investigations and prosecutions. During the year, the Border Guard partnered with an international organization to conduct training for several border posts on identifying and assisting trafficking victims.

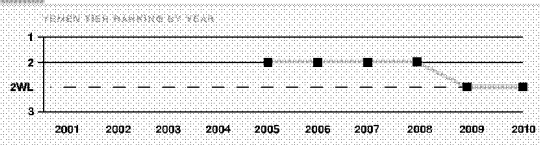
Prevention

The Vietnamese government continued some efforts to prevent trafficking in persons with assistance and cooperation from international organizations, NGOs, and foreign donors. However, as the government advanced goals of increasing labor exports, including to some countries where abuses of migrant workers are rife, it failed to make adequate efforts to prevent labor trafficking by requiring destination governments to provide adequate safeguards against forced labor of its migrant workers. Government regulations of labor and marriage brokers were weak and in some areas, nonexistent. The Vietnamese Women's Union ran local-level education campaigns on the dangers of sex trafficking that reached remote border areas. The government published, in some cases with NGO support, brochures on the dangers of trafficking for Vietnamese laborers abroad, and MOLISA distributed handouts and established a website on safe foreign migration. National-level and local authorities cooperated with a foreign donor partner, worked with MTV to stage a trafficking awareness-raising campaign in Vietnam's five largest cities. The National Committee on Trafficking solicited opinions and suggestions from international NGOs on the implementation of its most recent National Action Plan on Trafficking. The VWU continued to cooperate with its South Korean counterpart in pre-marriage counseling to prevent trafficking of Vietnamese women through international marriage. In September 2009, the government signed a bilateral agreement with Cambodia to standardize procedures for the repatriation of trafficking victims. The government distributed leaflets aimed at both foreign and domestic tourists to combat child sex tourism. Nevertheless, the government has yet to reach adequate agreements with

destination governments on safeguards against forced labor. Government regulations regarding labor trafficking were weak. Vietnam is not a party to the 2000 UN TIP Protocol.

YEMEN (Tier 2 Watch List)

Yemen is a country of origin and, to a much lesser extent, a transit and destination country for women and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labor and forced prostitution. Yemeni children, mostly boys, migrate across the northern border with Saudi Arabia, to the Yemeni cities of Aden and Sana'a, or – to a lesser extent – to Oman, and are forced to work primarily as beggars, but also for domestic servitude or forced labor in small shops. Some of these children are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation in transit or once they arrive in Saudi Arabia by traffickers, border patrols, other security officials, and their employers. The government and local NGOs estimate that there are hundreds of thousands of children in forced labor in Yemen. An unconfirmed government report indicates that fewer Yemeni children may have been forced to work in Saudi Arabia in the reporting period due to a combination of awareness campaigns, collaboration between Yemeni and Saudi authorities, and the outbreak of civil war in northern Yemen. Some parents may have refrained from sending their children to Saudi Arabia for fear of their encountering violence in northern Yemen, while other Yemeni children attempting to reach Saudi Arabia were abducted by rebel groups to work as soldiers.



To a lesser extent, Yemen is also a source country for girls subjected to commercial sexual exploitation within the country and in Saudi Arabia. Girls as young as 15 years old are exploited for commercial sex in hotels and clubs in the governorates of Sana'a, Aden and Taiz. The majority of child sex tourists in Yemen originate from Saudi Arabia, with a smaller number possibly coming from other Gulf nations. Yemeni girls who marry Saudi tourists often do not realize the temporary and exploitative nature of these agreements and some are forced into prostitution or abandoned on the streets after reaching Saudi Arabia. Yemen is a transit and destination country for women and children from the Horn of Africa; Ethiopian and Somali women and children travel willingly to Yemen with the hope of working in other Gulf countries, but once they reach Yemen are forced into prostitution or domestic servitude. Others migrate willingly with false promises of comfortable employment as domestic servants in

Yemen, but upon arrival are forced into prostitution or domestic servitude. Female Somali refugees are forced into prostitution in Aden and Lahj governorates and Yemeni and Saudi gangs traffic African children to Saudi Arabia. Somali pirates capitalize on the instability in the Horn of Africa to subject Africans to forced labor and prostitution in Yemen, in addition to their piracy and human smuggling crimes.

Despite a 1991 law which stipulates that recruits to the armed forces must be at least 18 years of age, and assertions by the government that the military is in compliance with these laws, credible reports exist that children have been recruited into official government armed forces – as well as government-allied tribal militias and militias of the Houthi rebels – since the sixth round of the intermittent war in Sa'ada began in August 2009. A local NGO estimated that children under the age of 18 may make up more than half of some tribes' armed forces, both those fighting with the government and those allied with the Houthi rebels.

The Government of Yemen does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these efforts, the Yemeni government did not show evidence of progress in prosecuting and punish trafficking offenders, identifying and protecting sex trafficking victims, or preventing sex trafficking over the last year; therefore, Yemen is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year. The government took no steps to address commercial sexual exploitation. It continued, however, to provide protection and reunification services to child victims repatriated from Saudi Arabia and to make notable strides in raising awareness of child labor trafficking.

Recommendations for Yemen: Enforce the December 2009 Ministry of Justice decree and take judicial action against human trafficking; expand the two reception centers to also rehabilitate victims of commercial sexual exploitation; institute a formal victim identification mechanism to identify and refer victims to protection services; expand educational campaigns on trafficking to include information on the sex trafficking of children and adults; and fully implement the National Plan of Action.

Prosecution

The Government of Yemen made minimal law enforcement efforts against human trafficking during the reporting period. Yemen prohibits some forms of human trafficking. Article 248 of the penal code prescribes 10 years' imprisonment for anyone who "buys, sells, or gives as a present, or deals in human beings; and anyone who brings into the country or exports from it a human being with the intent of taking advantage of him." This transaction- and movement-based statute does not prohibit debt bondage or many forms of forced labor and forced prostitution. Article 248 prescribes a penalty of up to ten years imprisonment, which is commensurate with that for other serious crimes, such as rape. Article

Additional Information on Vietnam Meriting Tier 3 Designation as Prepared by Boat People SOS

TIP criteria: “Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so are placed on Tier 3.”

Vietnam squarely belongs in Tier 3 because there is solid evidence that:

- Vietnam is a source country for labor trafficking. Since 2001 Vietnam has officially exported 700,000 Vietnamese nationals and many more unofficially (80,000 more are exported each year).
- Many cases of labor trafficking have been featured in past and present TIP reports:
 - o The Daewoosa American Samoa case (early 1999)
 - o The W&D Apparel case in Jordan (Feb 2008)
 - o The Esquel Malaysia case (Mar 2008)
 - o The Polar Twin Advance case (Jun 2008)
 - o The Winbond case (Nov 2008)
 - o The Sony EMCS case (Jan 2009)
- The Vietnamese government is involved in labor trafficking:
 - o Vietnam exports workers and domestic servants under its national policy to “eradicate hunger and reduce poverty;”
 - o The most active labor export companies are fully or partially owned by the state;
 - o The Vietnamese government has sent delegations, which always include representatives of the labor export companies (traffickers), to destination countries (American Samoa, US, Jordan, Malaysia, etc.) to intimidate, threaten, and repatriate victims viewed as “trouble makers” because they spoke out, and force other victims back to work for the traffickers—in many instances the delegation told the workers to sign self-incriminating and false statements that left out all mention of the employer’s exploitation or beatings.
 - o The public security police in Vietnam has intimidated, harassed and threatened family members and repatriated victims who filed petitions to request investigation of the traffickers;
 - o On March 8, 2008, the Committee on Ideology and Culture of the Vietnamese Communist Party banned all media coverage of labor trafficking cases;
 - o Officials implicated in labor trafficking have been promoted:
 - 1) Pham Do Nhat Tan, the Director of the Overseas Labor Management Agency of MOLISA, led the government delegation to American Samoa to threatened the victims in the Daewoosa American Samoa case, ordering them to drop the lawsuit against the traffickers lest they face consequences in Vietnam; he got promoted and is now the Director of Social Security Division under MOLISA.
 - 2) Nguyen Thanh Hoa, his protégé, then replaced him as Director of that agency and is now the Deputy Minister of MOLISA;
 - 3) Nguyen Ngoc Quynh, Hoa’s protégé, now heads that agency.
- The Vietnamese government has not shown any political will to fight labor trafficking:
 - o Vietnam has no law recognizing labor trafficking. Their laws only consider sex trafficking of women and children as human trafficking.
 - o As a result, no NGOs may work on labor trafficking in Vietnam; even IOM, funded by U.S. taxpayer dollars, has not been allowed to assist labor

trafficking victims after their repatriation to Vietnam.

o Therefore, victims of labor trafficking who are repatriated back to Vietnam are not receiving the proper assistance that they need.

o The Government of Vietnam has not investigated any case despite the large number of petitions (exceeding 100 petitions drafted by BPSOS and Coalition to Abolish Modern-day Slavery in Asia) that have been filed with all levels of government, from the Prime Minister's office to the block People's Committee—the government was fully aware of those petitions because they sent the police to investigate the victims, rather than the guilty parties;

o The Government of Vietnam has refused to pay \$3.5M in compensations to the 250 victims in the Daewoosa American Samoa case according to the 2001 judgement by the High Court of the American Samoa.

The Tier ranking of Vietnam in 2010 should take into account the following benchmarks:

- The Vietnamese government's willingness to pay the \$3.5M in compensations to the Daewoosa American Samoa workers, plus interests accumulated over the past 9 years;
- The Vietnamese government's willingness to investigate the petitions of victims, especially in cases that have been featured in the US TIP reports over the years;
- The Vietnamese government's allowing international and local NGOs full access to repatriated victims of labor trafficking; and
- The passage of an anti-trafficking law in Vietnam.

Witness Biographies

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca

Ambassador-at-Large

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking In Persons

Term of Appointment: 05/18/2009 to present

In May 2009, Ambassador Luis CdeBaca was appointed by President Obama to coordinate U.S. government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery. He serves as Senior Advisor to the Secretary and directs the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which assesses global trends, provides training and technical assistance, and advocates for an end to modern slavery.

Mr. CdeBaca formerly served as Counsel to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where his portfolio for Chairman John Conyers, Jr. included national security, intelligence, immigration, civil rights, and modern slavery issues.

At the Justice Department, Mr. CdeBaca was one of the country's most-decorated federal prosecutors, leading the investigation and prosecution of cases involving money laundering, organized crime, alien smuggling, official misconduct, hate crimes, and human trafficking. He was honored with the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his service as lead trial counsel in the largest slavery prosecution in U.S. history, which involved the enslavement of over 300 Vietnamese and Chinese workers in a garment factory in American Samoa. Additionally, he received the Department's highest litigation honor – the Attorney General's John Marshall Award – and the Director's Award from the Executive Office of United States Attorneys. He has received the leading honor given by the national trafficking victim service provider community, the Freedom Network's Paul & Sheila Wellstone Award, and has been named the Michigan Law School's Distinguished Latino Alumnus. He has convicted dozens of abusive pimps and employers, and helped to liberate hundreds of victims from servitude.

Mr. CdeBaca's family settled in New Mexico in the 1500s. He was raised on a cattle ranch in Huxley, Iowa, and attended Iowa State University. Mr. CdeBaca received his law degree from the Michigan Law School, where he was an editor of the Michigan Law Review.

Timothy Williams

Director, INTERPOL Washington

United States National Central Bureau (USNCB)

Mr. Timothy A. Williams commenced his appointment in October 2009 as the Director of INTERPOL Washington – USNCB, a subcomponent of the U.S. Department of Justice. As the Director of INTERPOL Washington, Mr. Williams acts on behalf of the Attorney General as the official representative to the International Criminal Police Organization located in Lyon, France. He also directs all operations, policies and procedures related to INTERPOL Washington.

Mr. Williams began his assignment at INTERPOL Washington in October 2006 as the Deputy Director, where he was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations and administrative activities of the USNCB, including managing law-enforcement agents, analysts, and various specialists who operate the Terrorism and Violent Crimes, Drug, Alien Fugitive, Economic Crimes and the State & Local Liaison Divisions as well as the INTERPOL Operations and Command Center and the Executive Office for the organization. These Divisions facilitate the exchange of information and communications between INTERPOL's 188-member countries with U.S. federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to enable secure police-to-police communications.

Prior to this position, he served as the Chief of Technical Operations Group (TOG) with the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), where he oversaw the nationwide air surveillance operations, the electronic surveillance unit, the tactical support operations and the intelligence and analysis directorate within the Investigative Services Division. Preceding this position, he served as the Commander of the largest fugitive task force in the U.S., which is located in the New York/New Jersey region. The NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force—made up of more than 150 individuals from over 90 police agencies in the region—was responsible for arresting thousands of the most violent offenders in the nation.

Mr. Williams began his career with the USMS in 1986. During his career, he served in various non-supervisory and supervisory assignments such as Deputy Marshal; Supervisor of Fugitive Operations for the District of New Jersey; Inspector/Instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; Inspector with the Special Operations Group; and was selected to establish a new overseas field office for the USMS in Jamaica (January, 2000). Additionally, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Mr. Williams was selected to supervise an FBI Interagency Task Force charged with analyzing communications, records, and locations of the terrorist networks responsible for the attacks.

He is an active member of the International Chiefs of Police as a member of the International Organized Crime Committee and International Police Steering Committee, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Law Enforcement Committee, and serves on various technical advisory groups inclusive of the Law Enforcement/Private Industry Information Technology Working Group (ITSG) and the Interagency Council for Applied Homeland Security Technology (ICAHST). Mr. Williams also serves on the INTERPOL Financial Advisory Group in Lyon, France.

Dallas Jessup

Dallas Jessup (18) knows how to change the world. She grew a community service project into the non-profit Just Yell Fire which has become a Million Girl Revolution across 45 countries.

As a 13 year old black belt martial artist, Dallas learned the frightening statistics that 1 in 4 girls will be sexually assaulted and that there are 114,000 attempted abductions each year in the United States alone. She set out to create a home movie to teach her schoolmates at Portland's St. Mary's Academy High School some street fighting techniques to defend themselves.

The word spread that a young girl was putting together an important film and in sixty days Dallas had a volunteer professional crew of 30, 100 volunteer extras, celebrity cameos by Josh Holloway and Evangeline Lilly, and \$600,000 in donated resources. Thus came about the 46 minute film, Just Yell Fire. It teaches girls how to literally fight back against predators and sexual assault.

Dallas put the film online for free download and raised the money to produce and ship free DVDs to girls without Internet access. The results? Nearly one million downloads in two years and multiple awards for the film including American Library Association Most Notable Video designation and Dallas was a Teen Choice Award nominee for her work.

Her non-profit now provides teen-safety programs for schools, trains teachers & coaches in Just Yell Fire techniques, presents seminars at schools, camps, crisis shelters and elsewhere..

Sandra Fiorini

Graduated from Pascack Hills HS 1966

Graduated from UNTS Texas 1970

Hired by American Airlines 1971

Married to Philip Thompson for 17 years and had two boys and a girl. Philip died in 1989 from lung cancer.

I remarried in 1996 to Thomas Hodges who had two girls and a boy. I now have six children and six grandchildren.

I have been a member of airline ambassadors for many years and have been on three missions for them.

I have been volunteering for Innocents At Risk for two years teaching awareness of human trafficking to my co workers.

I have worked for American Airlines for 39 years.

Deborah Stark Sigmund

Mrs. Deborah Sigmund is the Founder and Director of Innocents at Risk, a non-profit, founded in April 2006, to help stop the trafficking of women and children. The United States Department of State has endorsed the organization's efforts on behalf of the three million women and children who are trafficked annually worldwide.

Prior to becoming the full-time Executive Director of Innocents at Risk, Mrs. Sigmund was President of the CMW Group, an international consulting firm specializing in Latin America. She continues to serve on the board of the U.S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce.

Along with her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Sigmund is well-known in the Washington area for her work on behalf of charitable organizations such as The Washington Ballet, Knock Out Abuse, Second Genesis and Arts for the Aging. Mrs. Sigmund has held leadership positions in several prominent charitable organizations. She was on the Golden Circle for the Kennedy Center for the Arts from 1993-2005. She is currently on the boards of: The Washington Ballet and Second Genesis. She is active in activities at her church, Christ Episcopal Church of Georgetown, and is a member of the Capitol Speakers Club, The Georgetown Club, The National Press Club and has been accepted as a new 2010 member of Leadership of Greater Washington.

Selene Martin (formerly Selene Edmunds)

Selene Edmunds is the Director, LexisNexis Cares. In this global role, Selene is focused on applying the unique capabilities of LexisNexis to improve the lives of others around the world; reducing LexisNexis' impact on the environment; and continuing to demonstrate LexisNexis' commitment to operating in an open, honest and ethical manner.

A key part of her work is to develop and support partnerships with customers, governments and NGOs to work collaboratively on two signature issues for LexisNexis: advancing the Rule of Law particularly around human trafficking and protecting and safeguarding children. In addition Selene oversees the LexisNexis Cares program supporting employee volunteerism in the community and the matching gift and disaster relief programs.

Selene has more than 11 years of experience and has held key management positions within LexisNexis in corporate communications, marketing and human resources. Selene received a BS in Marketing from Wright State University, is co-chair of the LexisNexis Pro Bono initiative, a member of the Somaly Mam Foundation task force and is a founding member of the LexisNexis Women's Connected Network.

Outside of LexisNexis, Selene enjoys volunteering in her community.

Prepared Statement of Daniel Sheth, Board of Directors of Airline Ambassadors

March 25, 2010

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Human Trafficking –
Human Trafficking: International and National Implications

On October 20, 2009, we were checking in at SDQ airport to catch our JetBlue Flight to JFK, when we noticed a girl (approximate age 12) and a boy (approximate age 9) accompanied by a male adult (approximate age 40) and a female adult (approximate age 40) at the check-in counter besides us. The young girl was profusely crying as she was standing in line with this boy and the two adults. The girl was carrying some paintings and a guitar as she stood in line. Neither of the adults consoled her in any way, and rudely asked her to be quiet!

The adult female was checking the family in, as her male counterpart stood by. I had initiated conversation with the male adult, and asked him why this young girl was crying. He said that she is leaving Santo Domingo for the first time, and therefore, is sad to leave her friends and family. I asked where they were going, and he said to New York. I asked if they were going on Vacation, and he said, no. They were permanently going to New York. I casually asked if they were parents of these young kids, and he quickly said that they are only friends. I kept asking myself if they are not the parents, then where are they? In addition, this Male adult mentioned that he has a few homes in New York City, but when we asked if he knew Canal Street, he said he had never heard of it. Clearly, this man did not have homes there. During this entire conversation, a blue uniformed airport official (female) was escorting this “family”.

They left the check-in counter and proceeded to security check. We shortly followed them to security, and were given forms to fill out. Surprisingly, this “family” had the forms filled out and ready to go, prior to even entering the security area. In addition, we noticed that only the female adult was accompanying the two children. The adult male was nowhere to be seen at this point. The blue uniformed “official” escorted the family to the security / passport check point.

After clearing security, we proceeded to the gate and noticed the “family” sitting near the gate, waiting for the boarding call. During the entire time, the female adult seemed to be a professional who knew every step of the process.

Anyhow, we proceeded to board the aircraft and stood besides this family. I initiated conversation with the adult female, who seemed to be quite jittery. She told us that they are on their way to Boston! This completely surprised us, as the adult male told us that they were moving to New York.

After boarding the aircraft, we placed a call to the Human Trafficking hotline that was mentioned on the blue wrist band, given to us by Deborah Sigmund. I explained in detail as to our recent experience at SDQ airport. The hotline representative reassured me that law enforcement officials will be notified at JFK and they will look into the matter. When we were in the air, we informed the flight attendant of our experience and he immediately notified the pilot. During the period, the flight attendant started asking questions and requested the family’s passports. This was troubling as he was not trained in questioning. Upon giving the passports to the attendant, the Female adult began to talk to the children in a panicked mode, almost as if she was preparing them.

I was quite surprised to see that law enforcement officials greeted our aircraft, quickly identified the persons in question, and took them to a separate immigration line at JFK. We followed the “family” from a distance, and noticed that they were being questioned in detail by the Customs and Border Patrol officer.

After being cleared at that initial station, they were escorted by an officer to the other side of the baggage claim, where they were questioned further by other law enforcement officials. During that escort, the girl saw us and waved to us, with a look of “thank you”. Unfortunately, the family was cleared by both officers, and the family proceeded to catch their connecting flight to Boston.

Shortly thereafter, I received a telephone call from a detective who works with Jet Blue Airlines. He informed me that all their documents seemed to be legitimate so they had no reason to hold the family, even though both patrol officers had their share of doubts! The detective informed me that the adult female passenger has a residential address in New York and in Boston. Both the locations would be visited by law enforcement officials to see if there is any unusual activity. They would continue to monitor and investigate the “family”. The detective can be contacted at +1-646-244-1346.

Thank you,

Daniel Sheth
Board of Directors of Airline Ambassadors

Prepared Statement of Linda Smith, Founder and President of Shared Hope International

Linda Smith (U.S. Congress 1994-98)

Founder and President, Shared Hope International

March 25, 2010

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Committee Chairmen Wolf and McGovern, and distinguished members of the Committee, it is an honor to provide testimony on the matter of National and International Implications of Human Trafficking.

Shared Hope International has been working to prevent sex trafficking and rescue and restore women and children who have suffered its devastating effects. This work began in 1998 when I was called by a constituent to witness the enslavement of women and girls in brothels in Mumbai, India. Sex trafficking and the sexual slavery in which these women and girls of Mumbai are held is an agony suffered by millions of others around the world and represents an extreme form of international violence against women.

After witnessing the sex trafficking in Mumbai, I was compelled to organize Shared Hope International to provide a response to their desperate circumstances. Eleven years later, Shared Hope International has provided the resources and assistance to found seven holistic Villages of Hope, providing a substitute family and home to the victims of sex trafficking in India, Nepal, Fiji, Jamaica, the Netherlands, South Africa and the Dominican Republic. Currently, five of the seven Villages of Hope continue this critical restoration work abroad. These safe homes include the Women's Investment Network (WIN) which brings training and education to the women living in the Villages of Hope and other women living on the margins of their communities. Once defiled, many women no longer have a home to return to and become permanent members of the Village of Hope families.

The threat of physical violence through the commercial sexual exploitation of these women is very great. Just as dangerous to the women are the health risks directly resulting from their sexual exploitation. HIV/AIDS is epidemic in the survivor community and in Shared Hope International's model of long-term restoration the cost of medical treatment and nutrition is an ever-increasing budget burden. Less measurable but equally harmful are the psychological harms. Sex trafficking and sex slavery victims suffer various forms of trauma designed to bond them to their trafficker through a conditioning process. The resulting trauma bond is a real psychological condition that takes extensive therapy to address, and keeps them in slavery even in a free world.

We have found common forces throughout the world destroying the lives of these children, like Renu in Nepal. Renu spent four years in sexual slavery in India, a country that has passed extensive trafficking laws making the buying and selling of human beings for sex a crime. Her story shows that even though India has a law against sex slavery, it did not in any way hinder her sale each and every day of the four years she was captive. Why? Because there is an active local sex market with a demand for young girls by the local men. This cultural tolerance towards men buying sex has created a market that puts young Indian and Nepalese girls in constant danger of kidnap and sexual violence as traffickers shop to meet the demand for more product.

It was my foster brother who took me when I was just 14, drugged me with some juice, and sold me into prostitution. I woke up far from home and found I had been bought by a man who also owned other girls. I was so frightened and confused, I was kept in a locked room and I could do nothing of my own will. Though my spirit had died, I remained alive in that place for 4 years.

Girls in the brothel suffer terribly. Many of us were locked in dungeons in utter darkness, unable to tell if it is day or night, unable to talk to anyone at all, our only contact--the men that use us. I was lucky because my brothel owner let us out on occasion after the point where she knew we could no longer have the will to run away. But one day I took the little money I had hidden and I did run away--I fled to the train station and started a 4 day journey to my home, Nepal. All during the long trip I dreamed and hoped my

family would accept me but it was not to be. In the Hindu culture, if a girl is out for even one night the village assumes the worst and will not accept her back. I was shunned and rejected, and alone.

This painful story varies only slightly from the core elements of trafficking in other countries, including the United States. “Tonya’s” story demonstrates this.

I grew up without being accountable to anyone. I never knew my father, and my mom was an alcoholic; she was around, but not there...all I know, I have learned from my own experiences. I wish there had been an adult in my life to just teach me what is right and tell me what to watch out for, or what could happen to me. I just didn’t know. When I was 12 years old, a guy I thought was just a “dope [cool] boy” kept following me in his car when I walked to school. He was older and real cool, and he said I was really cute. He paid a lot of attention to me and eventually I got in the car with him. For a while we were girlfriend and boyfriend; we would go everywhere together. It didn’t take long before I experienced the real treatment—being beaten, stomped on, manipulated and sold all day every day.

When I think about how it must have looked to people, a baby-looking girl like me with an older “boyfriend”, it makes me wonder why nobody was ever there to stop it, or even ask any questions at all. I think in our society there is nobody that even wants to stop it. It’s just normal. Everything is about sex everywhere you look in our culture, and sex with little girls is just another part of the picture. That’s the way it seemed to me when I was 12, and when I realized that my boyfriend was a pimp, I thought, well, I guess that’s just the way it is and I did what he told me. I thought I was making the choice, and that was pretty much what I would have to do to get along in life. Nobody ever told me—I didn’t understand--what a choice really was.

Sometimes the john would tell me they knew I was young and they wanted to help me get out; I always took it as a joke because they would go ahead and use me anyway. They acted like their pity or their money helped me. They never did anything to help me, and I stopped hoping that anyone ever would.

The severity of trauma bonding keeps them bound in these situations, but cultural and official inability to see them as victims and the continuing use of terminology such as “child prostitutes” prevents entire cultures from perceiving the victimization--thus the failure to see the importance of pursuing demand reduction as a solution to this particular form of violence against women.

In 2005, Shared Hope International received funding through the U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to undertake a comparative examination of the sex trafficking and sex tourism markets with an eye toward identifying demand reduction strategies in four diverse countries: Japan, Jamaica, the Netherlands, and the United States. What we found was that demand is driving the markets and thriving due to the culture of tolerance that exists globally for the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. Without a buyer of commercial sex from a trafficking victim, there would not be a market. Thus the report and accompanying awareness documentary was titled *DEMAND*. (See www.sharedhope.org/what/endeddemand3). Demand is the single greatest reason that violence against women will not cease in any culture.

An equally disturbing finding related to the look into America. Expecting to find large numbers of foreign national women trafficked to the United States for commercial sexual exploitation, we were stunned to discover much larger numbers of U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident minors being exploited through the commercial sex industry. American girls of all colors and ages were found stripping and being prostituted in the VIP rooms of gentleman’s clubs, prostituted through escort agencies and Internet erotic websites, and controlled by pimps in the streets of Atlanta, Las Vegas and the Washington, DC-Baltimore corridor. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) these girls are trafficking victims.

This discovery led to a research project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance to investigate the scope of this domestic minor sex trafficking problem and to determine what services were or were not being provided to rescue and restore the victims. Eleven locations were researched over three years and individual assessment reports issued for

each. In all cases, we found American minor children arrested and/or detained for prostitution or prostitution-related offenses rather than treated for the violence inflicted upon them. Survivors tell of their trafficker's extreme swings from love to violence which work to create the trauma bond that holds them prisoner. In all locations, tolerance for the commercial sex industry and demand for younger victims were driving the recruitment and trafficking of girls.

At the conclusion of the research project, Shared Hope International had accumulated information that strongly suggested a national crisis: *our youth are at risk for extreme violence through prostitution*. Furthermore, the large majority of adult trafficked women reported that they were trafficked originally when they were under 18 years old. Violence against women in any culture, nation, or community includes violence against girl children. This violence very often carries over into adult women's lives. After years of providing protection for the girls and women in other countries, Shared Hope International decided to take action here in the United States. We are advocates for prevention of and protection from this egregious form of violence against female children.

Shared Hope International compiled the eleven reports into *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children*. The report reveals the startling facts that at least 100,000 children are used in prostitution every year in the United States and the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old. A domestic minor sex trafficking victim who is purchased for sex with an average of five men per night on five nights each week for five years would be exploited by more than 6,000 buyers during her victimization through prostitution. Our research revealed hundreds of children arrested, charged and prosecuted for prostitution, despite their status as minors and, therefore, as victims of child sex trafficking. Appropriate protective shelter and services are critical for the protection and restoration of child sex trafficking victims - but they do not exist.

The United States is a recognized leader in the anti-trafficking battle and has signed and ratified the UN Protocol against human trafficking which provides that persons under 18 years of age who are used to perform commercial sex acts are victims of sex trafficking. This international standard is reiterated in the American anti-trafficking law, the TVPA 2000. The U.S. Department of State authors the *Trafficking in Persons Report* each year which measures the efforts of other countries in combating human trafficking in their respective countries. This evaluation has grown to include internal trafficking; countries that have not taken a firm position on preventing internal trafficking have been affected in the evaluation as a result. Also, Congress mandated that an annual report issue from the Attorney General detailing human trafficking in the U.S and efforts under the U.S. Government to combat it. Several federal agencies also participated in the U.S. Mid-term Review for the Third World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2006 which generated a report demonstrating that while efforts are being taken, much more must be initiated to fight this problem effectively. (See www.sharedhope.org/csecmtrusa/csec.asp). With the knowledge that thousands of American minors are prostituted in the commercial sex industry, we must ask "How would the United States fare in such an evaluation?" We should find out in the 2010 TIP Report which will, for the first time, evaluate the United States under the same criteria as other countries.

What can Congress do? There are two actions Congress can take to fight this form of violence against women and girls in our country and combat the national crisis we are facing. First, Congress can reaffirm the intent of the TVPA 2000 to protect all women and children from commercial sexual exploitation, including U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. This protection must include prosecution of the demand – the buyers of commercial sex from trafficking victims. Direction to the Department of Justice can make the TVPA effective in prosecuting all of the criminals involved in trafficking, from the trafficker to the buyer. The impact on our nation of exploding demand for commercial sex is resulting in growing numbers of youth being commercially sexually exploited. Deterrence is best effected through prosecution of the offenders.

Second, Congress has the opportunity and obligation to send a strong message to the fifty states that Congress intends for these children to be treated as victims and be given all of the services and justice which the TVPA provides. Federal funds authorized in the TVPRA 2005 for services and pilot shelters for juvenile victims have not been appropriated. States are not prioritizing the adoption and implementation of safe harbor laws that would remove a trafficking victim from the criminal justice response and place the

child appropriately within a child protection response. The lack of appropriate shelter is cited as the biggest problem first responders face in protecting the child victims of sex trafficking. There is no place for these children to receive adequate protection and specialized services that will break the cycle of violence and victimization. The first responders who want to help are currently limited to placing the victim in a runaway youth shelter or juvenile detention in the absence of a safe, secure facility to protect these children. The victims of today will not grow to be the productive citizens of tomorrow without intervention and restoration. The disparity between the funded and provided services and shelter for foreign victims and those mandated but not funded for domestic victims must be cured.

The devaluation of children's lives through their exploitation in commercial sex markets is resulting in a breakdown of communities in nations around the world, including our own. Honorable Chairmen, members of the committee, on behalf of these children and the thousands more whose stories we will never hear, we urge you to take aggressive action to protect the girls of every nation who will soon be women made vulnerable by the continuing violence they have endured.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our findings on this important issue. I would like to applaud your leadership and commitment and thank you for holding this hearing.

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