

# NTS BULLETIN

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## MAIN HIGHLIGHT

**Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend, 1 September 2009, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).**

‘Child Trafficking in East and South-East Asia: Reversing the Trend’ is a regional report on child trafficking which assessed seven countries namely, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The report notes that ‘South-East Asia has long been noted as a veritable “hot spot” for human trafficking, with its stark socio-economic and developmental disparities, long contiguous borders, historical intraregional migration patterns and existence of few legal migration alternatives – all considered key factors that enable trafficking and criminal exploiters to thrive’.

Overall, the report identified the following purposes for which children are trafficked in the region: Various forms of bonded and exploitative labour, such as domestic services, factory work, agriculture, fishing, construction; sexual exploitation, such as through child prostitution or the production of child pornography; marriage, adoption, begging and the sale of small items.

One of the critical findings of the report was the breaking up of categories of child vulnerabilities and creating different programmes and approaches for each of them; this negatively impacts the overall effectiveness of anti-trafficking programmes. Although there are currently dozens of child anti-trafficking programmes in the region, there are also an equal number of programmes addressing child labour, sexual exploitation, violence and neglect, and juvenile issues, all of which require financial resources to be split amongst them, burdening human resources and stretching an already-limited capacity to keep pace with new laws, regulations, and similar but different training, procedures and guidelines.

### Additional Info:

Robert Booth, ‘Fifth of Britons unknowingly aid child trafficking, according to survey’, 14 August 2009 (The Guardian).

‘India hub of child trafficking in South Asia’, 20 August 2009 (Indo-Asian News Service).

‘Despite regional efforts, trafficking continues to take heavy toll on children’, 1 September 2009 (UNICEF Press Centre).

‘UNICEF says Philippines faces serious child trafficking problem’, 2 September 2009 (Earth Times).

‘Assault on child trafficking is failing’, 4 September 2009 (UNICEF Australia Media Centre).

Annie Kelly, ‘Child sacrifice and ritual murders rise in Uganda as famine looms’, 6 September 2009 (The Observer).

## MIGRATION

### News & Commentaries

- Alexis Douglas P. Romero, ‘Remittances hit record \$1.5B’, 18 August 2009, *BusinessWorld Online*.
- ‘Illegal migration to Italy: Boat-race people’, 27 August 2009, *The Economist*.
- Veronica Uy, ‘Filipino runaway maids swell during Ramadan’, 30 August, *Inquirer.net*.

- 'China's Burma refugees "return"', 31 August 2009, *BBC News*.
- Yasmine Ryan, 'Exodus from North Africa full of perils', 8 September 2009, *The New York Times*.
- 'Caribbean governments address needs of children affected by migration', 11 September 2009, International Organization for Migration.
- 'GLOBAL: Mobility key to climate change adaptation, say experts', 15 September 2009, *Reuters AlertNet*.
- 'U.N. says 16 die, 49 missing off shores of Yemen', 15 September 2009, *Reuters AlertNet*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- Sarah Bailey, Kevin Savage & Sorcha O'Callaghan, 'Cash Transfers in Emergencies: A Synthesis of World Vision's Experience and Learning', HPG Commissioner Report, Overseas Development Institute, August 2009.

Cash transfers have become an acceptable means for assisting people in times of crisis. This study examines the use of cash transfers by NGOs such as WorldVision and other humanitarian aid agencies. Cash transfers have recently increased in popularity due to their increased effectiveness versus in-kind donations in certain contexts. However, established guiding criteria for these transfers have not yet been standardised in many organisations. The paper finds that WorldVision needs to improve its skills and capacity to decide when cash transfers are appropriate and to programme it when necessary.

- Kayly Ober, 'Finding a (Legal) Home for Climate Migrants', Towards Recognition, 31 August 2009.

The author recommends the convening of a Conference for the protection of climate migrants based on the experience of the Oslo process and to bring this idea forward to the United Nations, which could lead to the negotiation of a draft text.

### **Events & Announcements**

- 2009 Executive Committee Meeting, UNHCR, 28 September – 2 October 2009, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 6th Annual Immigration Law and Policy Conference, 24 October 2009, Washington D.C., USA.

### **Latest Publication**

- *Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Human Displacement: A UNHCR Perspective*, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 14 August 2009.

By the UNHCR.

In discussing Climate Change, the international community has focused mostly on scientific aspects of the phenomenon, and has not devoted enough attention to humanitarian issues and challenges generated as a result of climate change. This note contains UNHCR's preliminary perspectives on these questions as a contribution to the ongoing debate on climate change. Topics in the paper include various displacement scenarios, their implications for the UNHCR, terminology and the 1951 Refugees Conventions, and suggestions for the way forward.

## INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT

### News and Commentaries

- Karishma Vaswani, 'Mixed emotions as E Timor marks vote', 30 August 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'Australia Serb avoids extradition', 2 September 2009, *BBC News*.
- Nicholas Daniels, 'Militias, gangs and vigilantes in Kenya: The consequences of abandoning the reform agenda', 2 September 2009, *OpenDemocracy.net*.
- Lucy Hornby, 'Protestors demand China's Xinjiang leader resigns', 3 September 2009, *Reuters*.
- 'China needle attacks "not toxic"', 14 September 2009, *BBC News*.
- 'UN "concerned" over Sri Lanka camps', 15 September 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- Marwaan Marcan-Markar, 'Thailand: Three years after coup, political divisions remain', 15 September 2009, *IPS*.
- 'Govt plans to use political approach in the South', 15 September 2009, *The Nation*.

### Papers & Reports

- Mark Knight, 'Security Sector Reform: Post-conflict Integration', Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform, University of Birmingham, August 2009.

This paper provides a synthesis of key issues and lessons from academic and policy papers focused on issues relating to the integration of non-state and government military forces, as part of a wider peace settlement following civil war. As well as drawing upon existing studies the paper synthesises themes by examining the data from eight primary and fifteen secondary case studies, drawn from various sources. An overarching and consistent theme throughout all case studies examined is the requirement, with integration endeavours, to view the process as the outcome. The integration of non-state military forces into the state security apparatus is an element of wider post-conflict peacebuilding and statebuilding processes and as such the outcome is rarely predictable. An effective and sustainable solution from one context cannot be assumed to represent a template solution for other contexts. Support to the process of decision-making, and bodies established to implement decisions has been seen to be an effective strategy for external assistance. The paper has highlighted the complex and diverse nature of efforts to integrate ex-combatants into state security forces.

- 'Philippines: Shattered Lives, Beyond the 2008-2009 Mindanao Armed Conflict', Amnesty International, August 2009.

More than 200,000 civilians in central Mindanao are still vulnerable to abuses despite the recent ceasefire between the Philippine army and the insurgent Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), warned Amnesty International in a new report published on Tuesday. The report details the risks that hundreds of thousands of people face as they are forced to live in camps or makeshift shelters, sometimes surrounded by a heavy military presence. Many of the displaced are still unable to return to their homes following the implementation of a ceasefire on 29 July 2009. The report, based on an Amnesty International mission to Mindanao and detailed field updates, highlights the desperate conditions of civilians living in crowded camps with limited access to food and livelihoods. It also provides information about human rights abuses by both the army and the MILF against villagers in Maguindanao province, central Mindanao.

- 'Implementing the Responsibility to Protect – The 2009 General Assembly Debate: An Assessment', Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, GCR2P Report, August 2009.

In July 2009, for the first time since the adoption of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, the UN General Assembly continued its consideration of the responsibility to protect (R2P) and its implications. On 21 July 2009, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented his report 'Implementing the Responsibility to Protect' to the General Assembly. The President of the General Assembly then scheduled an 'informal interactive dialogue' on 23 July, followed by a formal plenary debate on 23, 24 and 28 July. In one of the largest plenary debates of the General Assembly's 63rd session, 94 speakers took to the floor, in total representing 180 member states from every region and two observer missions. What emerged was a clear commitment from the vast majority of member states to the prevention and halting of atrocity crimes. Indeed, only four countries sought to roll back what heads of states had embraced. UN members from north and south were overwhelmingly positive about the doctrine, which many asserted spoke to the purposes of the organization and was a fundamental and important challenge for the 21st century. Based on an analysis of the 94 statements, this report identifies the debate's key themes, including areas of consensus and concern, and provides a region-by-region overview of member views.

- Christopher Albon, 'Thai Army Uses Health to Win Hearts and Minds', War and Health, 2 September 2009.

This report points to a short video story in *The New York Times* on a new Thai Army program attempting to win hearts and minds through medical care. Since 2004, ethnic Malay-Muslims have clashed with the country's Buddhist majority for more autonomy. Recently, government troops have surged the southern provinces to quell the violence. However, Thai Army medics and doctors accompanying the troops are providing local villagers with basic medical care to soften the sting of military operations.

### **Events & Announcements**

- Piracy and Legal Issues: Reconciling Public and Private Interests, 1 – 2 October 2009, London, UK.

### **Latest Publication**

- *Globalization and Human Security*, USA: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2009.

By Paul Battersby and Joseph Siracusa.

This concise text presents a focused, well-rounded, and clear-eyed introduction to the concept of human security. Questioning the utility of traditional national-security frameworks in the post-Cold War era, Paul Battersby and Joseph Siracusa argue that we must urgently reconsider the principle of state sovereignty in a global world where threats to humanity are beyond the capacity of any one nation to address through unilateral action. The authors highlight circumstances, actors, and influences beyond the traditional focus on state security, especially the role of international organizations and non-governmental organizations. They also emphasize the importance of human rights, arguing for the development of an effective intervention capacity to protect individuals from state action as well as other security threats arising from conflict, poverty, disease, and environmental degradation.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Robin Sax, 'Human trafficking: A problem of language?' 21 August 2009, *The Huffington Post.com*.



- 'UN urges action against forced indigenous labour in Bolivia, Paraguay', 31 August 2009, *UN News Centre*.
- 'Petition to immediately pass the anti-prostitution Bill', 8 September 2009, The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific (CATW-AP).
- John W. Whitehead, 'The horrors of sexual trafficking, American-style', 9 September 2009, *The Huffington Post.com*.
- 'Human trafficking likely to rise due to economic decline', 10 September 2009, *AP*.
- 'Domestic workers' labour standards to be discussed by Lao PDR Government, unions, employers. Consultations could lead to a new international labour standard protecting domestic workers', 11 September 2009, International Labour Organization.
- Cameron Sinclair, 'Dying to work: Human trafficking and the construction industry', 15 September 2009, *The Huffington Post.com*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- 'Rethinking Re-integration: What do Victims Really Want and Need? Evidence From Thailand and the Philippines', United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking, 28 August 2009.

This report summarises lessons learned from reintegration programs in Asia, in particular the key findings of recent research based on in-depth qualitative interviews with 59 returned victims of sex and labour trafficking in Thailand and the Philippines. Insight from returned victims of trafficking – on their individual experiences, their reflections on the reintegration assistance they received, their main worries and needs upon return, and suggestions for improving the quality and effectiveness of reintegration assistance – revealed five key lessons learned. All hinge on the philosophy of empowering victims to have informed, economically viable choices when they are ready for them, including victims who were not properly identified as such. Empowerment and making informed choices is, in itself, seen as the necessary first step to victims taking back control of their lives.

### **Latest Publications**

- *Lists of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 10 September 2009.

By the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking.

On 10 September 2009, the Department of Labor released its initial 'list of goods from countries' (List), pursuant to Section 105(b)(2)(C) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Acts (TVPRA) of 2005. The List was released as part of a larger report detailing the methodology, scope, and limitations of the underlying research. Included in the List were 122 goods from 58 countries that the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB) has reason to believe are produced by forced labor, child labor or both, in violation of international standards. The countries on the List span every region of the world. The most common agricultural goods listed are cotton, sugarcane, tobacco, coffee, rice, and cocoa. In the manufacturing sector, bricks, garments, carpets, and footwear appear most frequently; and in mined or quarried goods, gold and coal. The report also includes listings of the sources used to make determinations about each good on the List. The primary purpose of the List is to raise public awareness about the incidence of child labor and forced labor in the production of goods in the countries listed, and, in turn, to promote efforts to eliminate such practices.

- *US Department of Labor's 2008 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor*, United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 10 September 2009.

By the Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Labor in its eighth annual report prepared in accordance with the Trade and Development Act of 2000 describes the efforts of 141 countries, non-independent countries and territories to combat exploitive child labor. During the reporting period, several governments took significant steps to enhance their legal frameworks relating to child labor law. The report however, noted that enactment of effective laws relating to child labor is an important element of efforts to ensure children do not enter the workforce prematurely. Without adequate enforcement, however, child labor laws alone have little meaning. The real test of country commitment is the extent to which governments enforce these laws.

## **WATER SECURITY**

### **News and Commentaries**

- 'Water project adds to Taiwan leader's typhoon woes', 23 August 2009, *Agence France-Presse*.
- 'Kenya: UN agency sounds alarm on dire food situation', 25 August 2009, *UN News Centre*.
- James Owen, 'Booming middle-class diet may stress Asia's water needs', 28 August 2009, *National Geographic News*.
- Jeffery Gettleman, 'Lush land dries up, withering Kenya's hope', 7 September 2009, *The New York Times*.
- Deepak Nagpal, 'A dried-up India and an agriculture crisis', 7 September 2009, *Zee Exclusive*.
- Kang Hyun-kyung, 'Pyongyang may weaponize water: North Korea can flood or drain South', 10 September 2009, *Korea Times*.
- 'Israel mourns the dying Dead Sea', 12 September 2009, *BBC News*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- 'Revitalizing Asia's Irrigation: To Sustainably Meet Tomorrow's Food Needs', International Water Management Institute, 2009.

Ending hunger, given Asia's swelling population, increasing urbanization and climate change, presents a huge challenge for farmers. With land and water resources stretched, they must double their output from existing cultivated areas. This report argues that Irrigation systems will be vital to help meet future food needs and reverse past environmental degradation, even given higher yields from rain-fed agriculture. However the irrigation sector must first be revitalized to unlock its potential, by introducing innovative practices and changing the way it is governed and managed.

### **Events & Announcements**

- International Media Consultation on Water and Climate Change, 24 - 25 September 2009, Zaragoza, Spain.

- Basin Development Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Stakeholder Forum, 15 - 16 October 2009, Chiang Rai, Thailand.

### **Latest Publication**

- *AQUASTAT Survey 2008: Irrigation in the Middle East Region in Figures*, FAO Land and Water Division, Rome, 2009.

Edited by Karen Frenken.

It is in FAO's mandate, as stated in Article 1 of its constitution, to 'collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information related to nutrition, food and agriculture'. Within this framework FAO launched in 1993 a programme known as AQUASTAT, its global information system on water and agriculture. AQUASTAT collects, analyses and disseminates data and information, by country, on water resources and water use, with emphasis on agriculture, which is targeted at users in international institutions, national governments and development agencies. This latest report presents the results of the most recent survey carried out in 18 countries in the Middle East Region, grouped into four sub-regions: Arabian Peninsula, Caucasus, Islamic Republic of Iran and Near East. It also offers a regional analysis including a synopsis on water resources development and irrigation in the region, besides a detailed profile of the 18 countries presented. The book includes an in-depth description of the four transboundary river basins.

## **TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

### **News & Commentaries**

- Antonio Regalado, 'Bolivia plants Coca, and Cocaine Follows', 18 August 2009, *The Wall Street Journal*.
- 'Palestinians seek organ theft probe', 28 August 2009, *Al Jazeera*.
- Richard A. Oppel Jr., 'U.N. sees Afghan drug cartels emerging', 1 September 2009, *The New York Times*.
- 'Initiative to curb trade in chemicals for illicit drugs', 4 September 2009, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- Delvin Barrett, 'Arms dealer's arrest exposes Iran's smuggling', 7 September 2009, *AP*.
- Antonio Maria Costa, 'The Taliban drug dealers', 7 September 2009, *Newsweek*.
- Aamir Latif, 'Smuggled US arms flood Pakistan tribal belt', 9 September 2009, *Islamonline.net*.
- Josh Meyer, 'U.S. officials troubled by fake currency flowing from Peru', 13 September 2009, *Los Angeles Times*.

### **Papers & Reports**

- 'Drug Decriminalization Works in Portugal', Cato Policy Report, July/August 2009.

In 2001, Portugal took the dramatic step of decriminalizing all drugs, including heroin and cocaine. The report notes that while other states in the European Union have developed various forms of de facto decriminalization—whereby substances perceived to be less serious (such as cannabis) rarely lead to criminal prosecution—Portugal remains the only EU member state with a law explicitly declaring drugs to be 'decriminalized.' (Portugal has

stopped short of 'legalization' because drug dealing remains a criminal offense.). Initially, conservatives in Portugal argued that the move to decriminalize would only worsen that country's drug problems - from rampant increases in drug usage among the young to the transformation of Lisbon into a haven for 'drug tourists'. However, none of the nightmare scenarios has occurred. Available data indicates that decriminalization has had no adverse effect on drug usage rates in Portugal, which, in numerous categories, are now among the lowest in the EU, particularly when compared with states with stringent criminalization regimes. Although post-decriminalization usage rates have remained roughly the same or even decreased slightly when compared with other EU states, drug-related pathologies—such as sexually transmitted diseases and deaths due to drug usage—have decreased dramatically. Drug policy experts in Portugal attribute those positive trends to the enhanced ability of the government to offer treatment programs to its citizens—enhancements made possible, for numerous reasons, by decriminalization.

### **Events & Announcements**

- The Right to a Fair Trial Outside One's Own Country? International Law Discussion Group, 22 September 2009, London, UK.

### **Latest Publication**

- Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009 – Summary Findings, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2 September 2009.

By UNDOC and Government of Afghanistan, Ministry of Counter-Narcotics.

In its *Afghanistan Opium Survey 2009 – Summary Findings* released in Kabul on 2 September 2009, UNODC reports that 'the bottom is starting to fall out of the Afghan opium market'. Opium poppy cultivation is down by 22 per cent, opium production is down by 10 per cent and prices are at a 10-year low. The number of poppy-free provinces has increased from 18 to 20, and more drugs are being seized thanks to more robust counter-narcotics operations by Afghan and NATO forces.

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