

# Stop Trafficking !

Anti Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

July 2017 Vol. 15 No. 07

This issue highlights information from the  
2017 U.S. State Department  
'Trafficking in Persons' (TIP) Report



## U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Sponsors of 'Stop Trafficking'

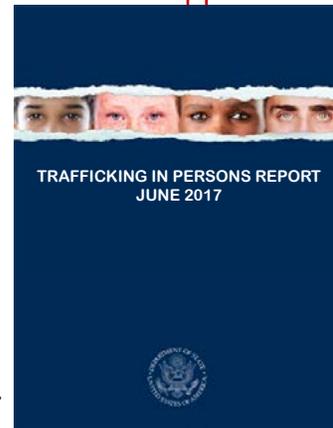
- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
- Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, KS
- Cenacle Sisters, N. Amer. Prov.
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of Los Altos Hills, CA
- Daughters of Charity, Prov. of St. Louise
- Dominican Sisters of Adrian, MI
- Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Peace
- Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, WI
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- Felician Sisters
- Franciscan Sisters, Little Falls, MN
- Franciscan Sisters, Rochester MN Human Trafficking Educators' Grp.
- Franciscan Sisters of Peace
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- Marianites of Holy Cross
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- School Sisters of Notre Dame, Shalom North America
- School Sisters of St. Francis, PA
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- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, OH
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- Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Houston
- Sisters of Charity, Leavenworth, KS
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY
- Sisters of Charity of New York
- Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida, WI
- Sisters of Christian Charity Mendham, NJ & Wilmette, IL
- Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- Sisters of the Holy Cross
- Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA
- Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Sisters of Notre Dame, CA Prov.
- Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, USA
- Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
- Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco, CA
- Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul, Canada
- Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA
- Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs
- Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
- Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Los Angeles
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, PA
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Prov.s
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, CA
- Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Amer. Prov.

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- Society of the Divine Savior USA

## 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report

*“Human trafficking is one of the most tragic human rights issues of our time. It splinters families, distorts global markets, undermines the rule of law, and spurs other transnational criminal activity. It threatens public safety and national security. But worst of all, the crime robs human beings of their freedom and their dignity. That’s why we must pursue an end to the scourge of human trafficking.”*



– Rex W. Tillerson,  
U.S. Secretary of State (TIP, pg. 1)

*“This year, the theme of the Trafficking in Persons Report is increasing criminal accountability of human traffickers and addressing challenges in prosecution—an essential component of the 3P paradigm of prosecution, protection, and prevention.... While governments can never fully reverse the trauma of human trafficking,*

*they can help survivors pursue the justice they deserve and return to a life of their choosing, a life with dignity and free will.”*

– Susan Coppedge, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP, Pg. 5)

*“In our day...wars and conflicts have become the prime driver of trafficking in persons. They provide an enabling environment for traffickers to operate, as persons fleeing persecutions and conflicts are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked. Conflicts have created conditions for terrorists, armed groups and transnational organized crime networks to thrive in exploiting individuals and populations reduced to extreme vulnerability by persecution and multiple forms of violence.”*

– Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations (TIP, pg. 6)

*“These are people living in some of the most horrifying conditions imaginable. We see children forced to make bricks in Peru, disentangle fishing nets in Ghana, or sold into prostitution in Southeast Asia. We see men held captive on fishing boats off the coast of Thailand, or women trapped as domestic workers in the Persian Gulf. No country is immune from this crisis.”*

– Nikki Haley, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (TIP, pg. 10)



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### Human Trafficking Pervades Society

Human trafficking is a crime increasingly associated with other government priorities such as national security, economic stability, migration, and environmental sustainability. It is reported that human trafficking fuels transnational criminal organizations, exacerbates irregular migratory flows, disrupts labor markets, and sustains other harmful, illicit activities through the forced criminality of its victims. Human trafficking can subvert legitimate economic and labor markets and cause a loss of productivity and economic stability for countries. And certain industries known for the use of forced labor also feature practices that wreak significant environmental damage. (TIP, pg. 18)

### Focus of the 2017 TIP Report

In the last five years, the Introduction to the annual TIP Report has examined the *protection* and *prevention* elements of the 4-P paradigm (*prosecute* traffickers, *protect* victims, *prevent* the crime, and *gain partnerships*) to enhance understanding of the crime and highlight global trends and achievements in combating it.

This 2017 Introduction focuses on *prosecution* efforts—the distinct responsibility governments bear under the Palermo Protocol to criminalize human trafficking in all its forms and to prosecute and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

While governments cannot undo the pain and indignity victims face, they can seek to right those wrongs through official acknowledgment of injustice and by prosecuting, convicting, and sentencing traffickers and those complicit in human trafficking. In taking these measures, governments provide justice for victims, create more stable societies to keep the vulnerable safe, and work towards a world free from modern slavery. (For the complete analysis, go to TIP, pgs. 1-12)

### U.S. Trafficking Profile

The United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, transgender individuals, and children—both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals—subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.

Trafficking occurs in both legal and illicit industries, including in commercial sex, hospitality, traveling sales crews, agriculture, seafood, manufacturing, janitorial services, construction, restaurants, health care, care for persons with disabilities, salon services, fairs and carnivals, peddling and begging, drug smuggling and distribution, and child care and domestic work. Individuals who entered the United States with and without legal status have been identified as trafficking victims.

Government officials, companies, and NGOs have expressed concern about the risk of human trafficking in global supply chains, including in federal contracts. Victims originate from almost every region of the world; the top three countries of origin of federally identified victims in FY 2016 were the United States, Mexico, and

the Philippines. Particularly vulnerable populations in the United States include: children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems; runaway and homeless youth; unaccompanied children; American Indians and Alaskan Natives; migrant laborers, including undocumented workers and participants in visa programs for temporary workers; foreign national domestic workers in diplomatic households; persons with limited English proficiency; persons with low literacy; persons with disabilities; and LGBTI individuals. NGOs noted an increase in cases of street gangs engaging in human trafficking. Some U.S. citizens engage in child sex tourism in foreign countries. (For the complete analysis, go to TIP, pgs. 415-420)

### Malaysia: TIP Report Is a Farce

Charles Santiago, a Malaysian member of Parliament, criticized the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report following Malaysia's unexpected upgrade from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List in 2016 and to Tier 2 in 2017. "Malaysia could not be a part of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) if it were still on Tier 3, so we can see how it was politically motivated," said Santiago. "Now under the administration of U.S. President Trump, it appears as though the U.S is not as committed to combatting human trafficking as before because the standards have dropped and this sends out a wrong message to other governments."

In 2016 a jungle camp used by human traffickers was discovered, where there were graves of 139 victims, believed to be ethnic Rohingyas from Myanmar. Following the discovery, 12 policemen were arrested for their alleged involvement but were later released due to a lack of 'strong evidence'. To date no Malaysian nationals have been convicted.

TIP Critique cont. pg. 3



## Awareness

### TIP Critique *cont. from pg. 2*

Santiago went on, “*The TIP report acknowledges how law enforcement officials have been complicit in human trafficking activities and how such officials have hampered anti-trafficking efforts, yet the US saw fit to upgrade Malaysia to Tier 2. The 2017 TIP report notes Malaysia’s conviction of 17 employers for the ‘unauthorized retention of passports’ compared to zero during the previous years. The conviction of 17 is just a ‘drop in the ocean’. This could be proven by asking foreign workers if they were allowed to retain their passports.*”

Many migrant workers from Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nepal, India and Myanmar seek better economic opportunities in Malaysia. There are large numbers of Rohingya refugees in the country. According to the Human Resources Ministry, there are some two million registered migrant workers in the country, while the Malaysian Employers Federation estimates there are six million legal and illegal foreign workers.

“*Migrant workers must be allowed to hold their passports. If not, it is forced labor. Anecdotal examples like the conviction of the 17 employers cannot be used to justify Malaysia’s upgrade when there are glaring examples on how we’ve failed to tackle human trafficking. The U.S. should just suspend the TIP report unless it is really serious about combatting human trafficking or else the TIP report will only lead to lower standards and make the problem worse,*” Santiago concluded. (<http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/06/29/us-human-trafficking-report-a-farce-says-santiago/>)

## Media Reporting on Human Trafficking

From traditional news outlets to social media, a growing movement is exposing human trafficking as a concern both from a human-rights and a national security perspective. Fifteen years ago, human trafficking was an under-reported and often misrepresented issue and some reporting sensationalized the problem or even misinformed the public. In the last few years, a significant shift has occurred in the media’s reporting of human trafficking, from dramatic exposés to in-depth original research and agenda-setting public-interest reporting. These media reports have helped change the way the public looks at human trafficking—from a crime that happens to ‘others’ to one that impacts people’s everyday lives, in nearly every community and region of the world.

- **2009, Des Moines Register.** A Register investigation in 2009 led to the release of dozens of men with intellectual disabilities, who were living in squalor, abused, and forced to work for as little as 41 cents per hour processing turkeys in a plant in Atalissa, Iowa. After four years of court battles with the company, the men won a \$240 million jury verdict, which was subsequently reduced to \$50,000 per person.
- **2010, CNN Freedom Project.** The network originally committed to a one-year project dedicated to raising awareness about modern slavery around the world. This year, the network celebrates seven years of the ‘Freedom Project,’ which has covered more than 600 investigative stories on human trafficking to date.
- **2011, Al Jazeera English.** The network started a ground-breaking series, ‘*Slavery: A 21st Century Evil*,’ highlighting global modern slavery.
- **2012, National Public Radio.** A two-part series on ‘*Morning Edition*’ exposed forced labor in the seafood sector with links to American tables.
- **2014, the Guardian.** A six-month investigative series, ‘*Modern-day Slavery in Focus*,’ revealed direct

links between the men forced to labor on fishing boats and in the production of seafood sold by major retailers throughout the world.

- **2014, Los Angeles Times.** The four-part investigative series, ‘*Product of Mexico*,’ revealed the harsh living conditions and exploitative situations endured by migrant farmworkers in Mexico who supplied significant amounts of agricultural produce to the United States.
- **2015, New York Times.** A seven-part series, ‘*The Outlaw Ocean*,’ which took two years to investigate, provided a comprehensive look at the overall lawlessness at sea and chronicled a diversity of crimes, including forced labor on fishing boats.
- **2015, Capital News Service.** Students from the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the Univ. of Maryland produced a six-part investigative series, ‘*The Brothel Next Door: Human Trafficking in Maryland*,’ that examined more than 36 state and federal human trafficking cases from 2005 to 2015, and submitted 70 public records requests for reports on forced labor and sex trafficking cases.
- **2016 Associated Press.** The 18-month investigative story, ‘*Seafood from Slaves*,’ led to the release of more than 2,000 trafficking victims; traced the seafood they caught to supermarkets and pet food providers across the U.S.; led to the jailing of perpetrators; to congressional hearings, and new laws.

Media play an enormous role in shaping perceptions and guiding the public conversation about human trafficking. Human trafficking schemes are constantly evolving, and the media’s vigilance helps keep the public informed and engaged. As media pursues more research and investigative work on the issue, the public will better understand how the crime works, how to identify and help trafficking victims, and ultimately, what can be done to prevent the crime from happening. (TIP, pg. 33)



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# Human Trafficking: A Public Health Issue

In the public health arena, the consequences of human trafficking are even more evident. The circumstances that victims of human trafficking endure often include unsanitary and dangerous work environments, poor living conditions, substandard nutrition, exposure to sexually transmitted and other communicable diseases, and the denial of access to any health care. Victims of trafficking also frequently suffer physical and mental abuse resulting in physical, sexual, and psychological trauma.

For both children and adults, unsanitary and crowded living conditions, coupled with poor nutrition, foster a host of adverse health conditions. In forced labor cases, long hours and hazardous working conditions including poor training, proximity to dangerous chemicals, lack of personal protective equipment, and financial or physical punishment, including sexual assault, can cause or contribute injuries and illnesses. Sex trafficking victims are exposed to pelvic inflammatory disease, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections. Human traffickers may force pregnant victims to undergo abortions, usually in unsafe conditions, posing further trauma and health risks. In addition to physical harm suffered, the range of recurrent emotional and psychological abuse victims often experience can lead to a host of disorders, such as anxiety, depression, and panic attacks.

The myriad health conditions victims of human trafficking face are often not treated properly or promptly, if at all. Victims may be barred entirely from seeking medical attention for health issues and from seeking preventive services, such as dental cleanings,

annual health screenings, or vaccinations, either by their trafficker or due to a lack of health insurance or money. Unaddressed health issues, which may have been treatable if detected early, can become more aggressive and severely degenerate the individual's health. Even after leaving a trafficking situation, survivors face health risks and consequences that last for many years. These often-chronic health conditions are compounded for survivors of trafficking by unique barriers to accessing adequate health care and medical treatment. Untreated conditions, especially contagious illnesses, can threaten the health of the individual victims, as well as the collective health condition of their communities.

In responding to the consequences detailed above, several U.S. public health experts in the 2017 compilation of essays entitled *'Human Trafficking Is a Public Health Issue'* make the case that using a public health perspective that moves beyond a criminal justice response has the advantage of enlisting a broader set of stakeholders and leads to more effective strategies to support victims and prevent human trafficking. For example, licensed health care practitioners, first responders, and other service providers can be trained to better identify victims seeking medical attention and help them to come forward. Likewise, professional curricula on domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse can integrate human trafficking elements. Such enhanced understanding and expanded training among a wide range of community stakeholders also aids in the prevention of human trafficking,

as individuals with certain histories—such as abuse, violence, homelessness, substance abuse, or untreated mental health disorders—are considered at increased risk for human trafficking. In this way, employing a public health perspective can help inform the development of more effective anti-trafficking interventions and prevention strategies. (TIP, pg. 18)

## Kuwaiti Maid

Nicole left her impoverished family to work as a maid in Kuwait with the intention of sending her earnings back home. For nine months she worked constantly, suffered physical and verbal abuse, and received no pay. When her work visa expired, her employer took Nicole to the police and falsely accused her of a petty crime. Nicole tried to explain her innocence and reported that she had not been paid and had been abused over the past nine months. The police did not listen and instead jailed Nicole for six months.

After her time in jail, Nicole was deported and returned home without any compensation. (TIP, pg. 11)





## Awareness

### Child Soldiers

The Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (CSPA) took effect on June 21, 2009. The CSPA requires publication in the annual TIP Report of a list of foreign governments identified during the previous year as having governmental armed forces or government-supported armed groups that recruit and use child soldiers, as defined in the act. This year's list covers the reporting period April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017.

Countries listed are: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Burma/Myanmar, Chad, Iraq, and Rwanda took steps to diminish child soldiers and were taken off the 2017 list. (This was criticized by Human Rights Watch.) (TIP, pg. 20)

### Abdul / Nigeria

Boko Haram attacked Abdul's village and kidnapped him when he was 14 years old. They trained him to handle machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, and rocket-propelled grenades. The group kept him and forced him to carry out various operations during which he was forced to kill 18 civilians. They also forced Abdul to gather intelligence on government forces, where he risked being recognized and prosecuted as a Boko Haram member.

After being forced to fight for three years, Abdul decided to flee while on a spying mission, but was recognized as Boko Haram and arrested when he entered an internally displaced persons camp to look for his parents. (TIP, pg.21)

### 2017 TIP Ranking Upgrades (green) and Downgrades (red)



### Syria

Recruitment and use of children in combat in Syria continues to increase. Syrian government forces, pro-regime militias, and armed groups, including ISIS, continue to recruit and use boys and girls as soldiers, human shields, suicide bombers, and executioners, as well as to fill supporting roles. (TIP, pg. 21)



*"I was forced literally to kill my best friend as an initiation process into the army. That's something I will never forget, and I still fight with every single day."*  
 Michel Chikwanine,  
 former DRC child soldier



## Advocacy

# 2017 TIP Report Tier Placement

Legend: (+/-) indicates the number of tiers a country moved up (+)/down (-) since 2016; (s) special case. Watch List Waivers (\*) Countries which continue to violate the Child Soldier Protection Act (CSPA) are indicated by ‡. (Data found on pgs. 20, 46 TIP)

Tier 1 Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards.

Armenia	Chile	Georgia	Korea, South	Philippines	Spain
Australia	Colombia	Germany	Lithuania	Poland	Sweden
Austria	Czechia	Guyana (+)	Luxembourg (+)	Portugal	Switzerland
The Bahamas	Denmark	Ireland	Netherlands	St. Maarten	Taiwan
Belgium	Finland	Israel	New Zealand	Slovak Republic	United Kingdom
Canada	France	Italy	Norway	Slovenia	USA

Tier 2 Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Afghanistan (+)	Costa Rica (+)	Iceland (-)	Macedonia	Panama	Tajikistan
Albania	Cote d'Ivoire (+)	India	Malawi	Paraguay	Tanzania (+)
Angola	Croatia	Indonesia	Malaysia (+)	Peru	Timor-Leste
Argentina	Curaçao	Jamaica	Maldives (+)	Qatar (+)	Togo
Aruba	Cyprus (-)	Japan	Malta	Romania	Tonga (+)
Azerbaijan	Dominican Republic	Jordan	Mauritius	Seychelles (+)	Trinidad & Tobago (+)
Bahrain	Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Mexico	Sierra Leone	Tunisia (+)
Barbados	Egypt	Kenya	Micronesia	Singapore	Turkey
Bhutan	El Salvador	Kosovo	Mongolia	Solomon Islands (+)	Uganda
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Estonia	Kyrgyzstan Republic	Morocco	South Africa	Ukraine (+)
Botswana	Ethiopia	Latvia	Namibia	Sri Lanka (+)	United Arab Emirates
Brazil	Fiji	Lebanon	Nepal	St. Lucia (+)	Uruguay
Brunei	Greece	Lesotho	Palau	St. Vincent & Gren (+)	Vietnam
Cambodia	Honduras				

Tier 2 Watch List Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards and: a) The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing; b) There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or c) The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year. Countries that wrote plans directed toward combating trafficking were granted **waivers** preventing them from automatically being downgraded to Tier 3. They remain on the Watch List for a 3rd or 4th year.

Algeria (+)	Cabo Verde	Haiti (+)	Macau (-)	Nigeria ‡ (-)	Suriname (+)
Antigua & Barbuda (*3)	Cameroon	Hong Kong	Madagascar (-)	Oman	Swaziland
Bangladesh (-)	Chad ‡ (-)	Hungary (-)	Marshall Islands (+)	Pakistan (*4)	Thailand
Benin	Cuba (*3)	Iraq (-)	Moldova (-)	Papua New Guinea (+)	The Gambia (+)
Bolivia (*3)	Djibouti (+)	Kiribati (no info)	Montenegro (-)	Rwanda	Zambia (-)
Bulgaria (*3)	Gabon (*3)	Kuwait	Mozambique	Saudi Arabia (*3)	Zimbabwe (+)
Burkina Faso (-)	Ghana (*3)	Laos (*4)	Nicaragua (-)	Senegal	
Burma/Myanmar (+)	Guatemala (-)	Liberia (-)	Niger	Serbia	

Tier 3 Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards, nor make significant efforts to do so.

Belarus	Comoros	Guinea (-)	Mauritania	Syria ‡	<b>Special Cases:</b>
Belize	Congo (DRC) ‡ (-)	Guinea-Bissau	Russia	Turkmenistan	Libya (s)
Burundi	Congo (ROC) (-)	Iran	South Sudan ‡	Uzbekistan	Somalia (s) ‡
Cent. African Rep.	Equatorial Guinea	Korea, North	Sudan ‡	Venezuela	Yemen (s) ‡
China (PRC) (-)	Eritrea	Mali ‡ (-)			



## Advocacy

## 2017 TIP Heroes

### Argentina



**Alika Kinan** is the first survivor of human trafficking in Argentina to win an award for damages in a civil sex trafficking case. In November 2016, she helped secure a criminal conviction of her traffickers and won the civil judgment

and award — the first time in Argentina’s history that a local government was ordered to pay a civil award to a victim of human trafficking.

Since escaping in 2012, Ms. Kinan continues to fight on behalf of trafficking victims for greater access to essential services such as medical treatment, housing, job training, and education. She works with the Argentine Prosecutor General’s Office, the Public Defenders’ Office, and the Ministry of Justice to improve the prosecution of human trafficking cases at the national and provincial levels. She is working to establish an NGO to help raise awareness and improve assistance to human trafficking victims in Argentina. (TIP, pg. 40)

### India



Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat serves as the first Commissioner of Police of Rachakonda, a police commissionerate in India’s Telangana state that covers more than four million residents. He demonstrated remarkable commitment to the fight against human trafficking for the last 13 years, participating in anti-trafficking operations that have removed hundreds of victims from situations of trafficking and, with the

help of other government departments and civil society organizations, ensuring their placement in support programs.

Mr. Bhagwat’s dedication to the fight against human trafficking is exemplified by his innovative and highly effective approach to investigating cases and his success in dismantling trafficking operations within his command areas. He pioneered the use of legal provisions to close sites where human trafficking is known to occur. Under his command, Rachakonda police closed 25 brothels—five hotels and 20 residential apartments—in less than a year and participated in one of the largest crackdowns on labor trafficking in the country, which led to the identification and removal of more than 350 children forced to work in brick kilns.

(TIP, pg 42)

### Brazil



**Leonardo Sakamoto**, a Brazilian journalist, has an unwavering commitment to the protection of fundamental freedoms in Brazil. In 2001, he established *Repórter Brasil*, an NGO dedicated to monitoring and combating forced labor in Brazil.

Mr. Sakamoto and *Repórter Brasil* participated in the creation of the ‘*National Pact for the Eradication of Slave Labor*,’ an agreement that brings together 400 companies committed to combating forced labor. His devotion to the issue is exemplified by his role in the production of the ‘*Lista Suja*’ (‘dirty list’), a public list of individuals and private companies found to be using forced labor in their supply chains. This mobilized the Brazilian government to increase its efforts to prevent forced labor in supply chains.

*Repórter Brasil* runs ‘*Escravo, Nem Pensar!*,’ the first national educational program to help raise awareness about and prevent forced labor in Brazil by providing technical and financial support for vulnerable communities. Under Mr. Sakamoto the program has already reached more than 140 municipalities in eight Brazilian states, benefiting more than 200,000 people. (TIP, pg. 40)



## Advocacy

### 2017 TIP Heroes

#### Cameroon

**Vanaja Jaspine** is the driving force behind and coordinator of the *Kumbo Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace* in the Northwest Region of Cameroon. She has placed her organization at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking in Cameroon and has contributed to a renewed government commitment to combat human trafficking.



Sister Jaspine has worked tirelessly to inform authorities and civil society leaders, including those in the religious community and media partners, about human trafficking, especially on patterns of movement that create vulnerabilities. She played a key role in recognizing the trend of Cameroonians traveling to the Middle East and being forced into domestic servitude or sex trafficking, and then spurred the government to take action, including drafting migrant worker agreements and enhancing screening measures at airports. Sister Jaspine and her organization have identified more than 200 Cameroonian trafficking victims in the Middle East during the past few years. In 2016 she helped facilitate the return of about 14 victims from the Middle East, including raising funds to sponsor return air travel for four of them.

Through her organization, Sister Jaspine has helped provide reintegration assistance to survivors, initiate a number of trafficking-related court proceedings, and offer legal assistance to victims. (TIP, pg. 41)

TIP heroes are NGO workers, lawmakers, police officers, and concerned citizens who are committed to ending modern slavery. They are recognized for their tireless efforts — despite resistance, opposition, and threats to their lives — to protect victims, punish offenders, and raise awareness of ongoing criminal practices in their countries and abroad. (TIP, pg. 40)

(See TIP pgs. 40-43 for other 2017 heroes.)

### Victims' Stories of Abuse

#### India | United Kingdom

Vihaan, a maritime machinist, accepted a job in the oil industry on a boat off the coast of the United Kingdom, thinking the sacrifice of leaving his family would be worth the money he could send home to support them. Once he arrived, the job was not as promised. Vihaan was not paid and had to work long hours under difficult conditions.

When the Indian owner of the vessel abandoned the ship due to unpaid debts, he left the crew stranded with their wages unpaid. Vihaan and his crewmates decided they would not desert the ship until they had been paid, and waited seven months before the Indian bank that owned the ship agreed to settle the unpaid wages. (TIP, pg. 2)

#### India | New Zealand

Rajiv arrived in New Zealand on a student visa to enroll in a business management program. Before courses started, he travelled to the Bay of Plenty, where he knew there was agricultural work, to earn extra money for school expenses. He soon found himself in a situation he could not leave. His employers forced him to use fake identification documents so he could work 80-hour weeks illegally in kiwi fruit orchards.

Rajiv and other migrant workers lived in fear of being deported or kidnapped if they complained about the grueling work. Rajiv's employer refused to give him his promised wages. After several months, Rajiv escaped the orchards and sought assistance from the New Zealand authorities. (TIP, pg. 6)

#### Syria | Lebanon

Maya was 22 when she fled her home country of Syria due to conflict in the region. She was promised a job working in a factory in Lebanon, but when she arrived she was forced into commercial sex along with more than 70 other Syrian women. They endured severe physical and psychological violence. Eventually, police raided the apartment units the women lived in and arrested 10 men and eight women who had been part of the sex trafficking scheme. (TIP, pg. 4)



## Action

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline**  
**National Human Trafficking**  
**Resource Center**  
**1.888.3737.888**  
**Text 'Help' at: BeFree**  
**(233733)**

## Learn More

### TIP Fact Sheets 2017

- Assisting Male Survivors of Human Trafficking
- DipNote: 2017 TIP Report
- Highlights Importance of Criminal Prosecution
- Engaging Survivors of Human Trafficking
- Human Trafficking & Migrant Smuggling: Understanding the Difference
  - Human Trafficking Protection Checklist
  - Media Reporting on Human Trafficking
- Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: An Alarming Trend
- Paying to Work: The High Cost of Recruitment Fees
  - U.S. Government Entities Combating Human Trafficking
- What is Trafficking in Persons?

Go to:

<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/fs/2017/index.htm>

## Do More:

### 15 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking

1. Learn the signs of human trafficking so you can help identify a potential trafficking victim. Awareness training is available for individuals, businesses, first responders, law enforcement, educators, and federal employees.
2. If you are in the U.S. and believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking, report your suspicions to law enforcement by calling 911 or the 24-hour National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline. Trafficking victims, including undocumented

individuals, are eligible for services and immigration assistance.

3. Be a conscientious and informed consumer. Discover your slavery footprint, ask who picked your tomatoes or made your clothes, or check out the Department of Labor's *List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*. Encourage companies to take steps to investigate and prevent human trafficking in their supply chains and publish the information for consumer awareness.
4. Volunteer and support anti-trafficking efforts in your community.
5. Meet with and/or write to your local, state, and federal government representatives to let them know you care and ask what they are doing to address human trafficking.
6. Host an awareness event to watch and discuss films about human trafficking. Check out CNN's *Freedom Project* for more stories on the different forms of human trafficking around the world.
7. Organize a fundraiser to donate to an anti-trafficking organization.
8. Encourage your local schools to partner with students and include modern slavery in their curricula. As a parent, educator, or school administrator, be aware of how traffickers target school-aged children.
9. Be well-informed. Become familiar with public awareness materials available from the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Homeland Security.
10. Work with a local religious community to help stop trafficking by raising awareness and supporting a victim service provider.
11. **Businesses:** Provide jobs, internships, skills training, and other opportunities to trafficking survivors.
12. **Students:** Take action on your campus. Join or establish a university club to raise awareness about hu-

### Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

#### 2017 Trafficking in Person Report

<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2017/index.htm>

#### Sec. of State Tillerson's 2017 Press Conference Speech:

<https://twitter.com/StateDept/status/879720875674615809>

#### TIP Heroes Global Network

<http://www.tipheroes.org/>

man trafficking and initiate action throughout your local community. Consider doing one of your research papers on a topic concerning human trafficking. Request that human trafficking be included in university curricula.

**13. Health Care Providers:** Learn how to identify the indicators of human trafficking and assist victims. With assistance from anti-trafficking organizations, extend low-cost or free services to human trafficking victims.

**14. Journalists:** The media plays an enormous role in shaping perceptions and guiding the public conversation about human trafficking. Learn and use best practices to effectively and responsibly report stories on human trafficking.

**15. Attorneys:** Offer human trafficking victims legal services, including support for those seeking benefits or special visas. Resources are available for attorneys representing victims of human trafficking. (<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/help/index.htm>)

**Stop Trafficking!** is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members and organizations, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!*, go to: <http://www.stopenslavement.org/>

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