



# carmengo

BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

SUMMER 2013 - VOL 6, NUMBER 3

"In a world that talks so much about rights, how many times are human rights trampled? In a world that talks so much about rights, the only thing that seems to have them is money."

Francis I



rt.com

## A Reflection of Most Western Countries Human Trafficking in Italy

The afternoon of March 9, 2006, a Romanian minor came to the substation of the railroad police at Rome's Tiburtina station and, speaking in Romanian, made it known that he wanted to report the theft of his passport. It was necessary to get an interpreter and with the help of that person, the Romanian was able to make the report.

During the interrogation it emerged that the minor, arriving in Italia on March 4, accompanied by an individual whom he did not know but who had promised to find the minor work. The minor was housed inside a nomadic camp with the daughter of the man who was called S and by another man. Two days after arriving in the camp he became aware that he was no longer in possession of his own passport. He asked the girl if she had taken it but at that point the other man came up and aggressively affirmed to have taken his passport and that of the girl. The man added that the boy had been taken in only because he could rob, turning over to them the stolen goods. Only by doing this would he be able to keep himself safe and send money to Romania.

According to the report, the minor was repeatedly slapped and threatened with a "sword." The man then took a pair of handcuffs and attempted to imprison the minor but the minor began to cry at that point. Promising to do what they asked, the minor managed to convince the individual not to hit him nor tie him up. A little later, seizing the opportunity when the man was distracted, the minor fled.

Following his fleeing from the camp, the minor added that he spent the night in a public garden near Rome's Termini train station. In the morning he went to Rome's Tiburtina train station with the intention of re-entering his homeland. But realizing that he would not be allowed back in his country without a passport, he decided to press charges with the railroad police.

The three persons were described as follows: the girl, named S., was around 23 years of age, short in stature, with blond hair down the back. She usually kept her hair tied back. The man

was around 30 years old, large build, black short hair, about 1.80 meters tall; the father of the girl would be about 40 years old and about 1.70 meters tall.

The railroad police, guided by the information from the minor, went to the nomadic camp. With the help of the police quick response team, they were able to control the entrances and exits to the camp, not permitting anyone to leave. Following the information given to them by the Romanian minor, the police proceeded to a wooden barracks which they found chained closed. Once inside, they found the passport of the minor, a knife made in the orient which was about 40 centimeters long (which could be without a doubt the "sword" that the young Romanian talked about) and a pair of metal handcuffs with the keys.

Every attempt to locate or apprehend the occupants of the barracks failed. The knife, the handcuffs, and some keys were taken into custody while the documents were returned to the Romanian youth. The boy, afterwards, was photographed and taken to the City of Rome's *Centro di Prima Accoglienza* (Welcoming Center) for minors.

Italy imports trafficked women from four major areas: Albania, Nigeria, Ukraine, Serbia, Colombia, and Peru. Entry into Italy is usually legal on a tourist or entertainment visa. Recruitment is achieved by means of deception, physical threats, or payments made to the women's families. In Italy, the Nigerian women are easily controlled because they and their families are forced to pay back huge debts to the trafficking organization for the cost of their trip to Europe and related expenses. It can take several years before such debts are paid off.

**“** In 2001, 23% of all murders in Italy were foreign women, mostly Albanians and Nigerians.

**”**

A Rome study estimated that nine million Italians regularly use prostitutes. But as clients tire of the same woman, gangs often trade slaves to neighboring countries at "knockdown" prices. In

extreme cases, slaves are murdered, especially if gangs suspect that a woman is trying to escape. In the early 1990s, the number of foreign women murdered in Italy - mainly Albanians and Nigerian - accounted for 6 percent of all murders. By 2001, the figure had risen to 23 percent.

The wife of the Governor of Edo State recently announced that 116 Nigerian prostitutes were reported killed in Italy between 1994 and 1998. In many cases, death is the best possible alternative for many of these women who have been coerced into prostitution and are kept in the most inhumane conditions. In one sad incident this November a Nigerian girl slipped and fell to her death from a 2nd story window trying to escape from the police who came to her house because her visa had expired. This story is typical of many that one can find leafing through the police bulletins.

While the main tenet running throughout trafficking for sexual exploitation is prostitution, current laws do not consider this practice a violation of a person's human rights. In fact, there are many women and prostitutes that are fighting to have this age-old profession recognized by the International Labor Organization, and thus fall under labor laws and regulations. In this fight the aim is also to protect the human rights of the women who work in this industry, by providing them with even the basic provisions of safe working environments and conditions as well as benefits.

Even in cases where the women entered into contracts with their traffickers with the knowledge that they were to work as prostitutes, human rights violations are committed by the way in which the women are kept and treated by their pimps. Through their research and case studies, *Human Rights Watch* believes that in all cases, the coercive tactics of traffickers, such as deception, fraud, intimidation, isolation, threat and use of physical force, and/or debt bondage are at the core of the problem of trafficking.

(from *Mercanti di uomini: La Compravendita di esseri umani in Europa ed in Italia negli ultimi dieci anni* by Italo Ormanni and Aureliano Pacciolla. Used with permission.) and TED Case Studies, Number 656, January, 2002

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## Websites Against Human Trafficking:

**International Justice Mission**  
[www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org)

**US Department of State: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons**  
[www.state.gov/j/tip](http://www.state.gov/j/tip)

**USCCB Committee on Migration: Statement on Human Trafficking "People on the Move" (Dec 2007)**  
[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/migrants/pom2007-105\\_rc\\_pc\\_migrants\\_pm105\\_statement-human-barnes.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/migrants/pom2007-105_rc_pc_migrants_pm105_statement-human-barnes.html)

**Caritas International: Statement on Human Trafficking**  
[www.caritas.org/activities/women\\_migration/caritas\\_migration\\_trafficking\\_and\\_women.html?cnt=641](http://www.caritas.org/activities/women_migration/caritas_migration_trafficking_and_women.html?cnt=641)

**Lutheran World Federation: Human Trafficking**  
[www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/human-trafficking](http://www.lutheranworld.org/lwf/index.php/tag/human-trafficking)

*For more detailed information about the content of these Side Events, check the Carmelite NGO website: [carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org) or [www.uncsd2012.org/meetings\\_sideevents.html](http://www.uncsd2012.org/meetings_sideevents.html)*



## Whatever insults human dignity dishonors the Creator

# People of Faith and Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is not isolated to only one area of the world. It exists in every country, either as a country of origin or a destination country. As a people of faith we should be outraged that human trafficking still exists. Feeling outraged is a first step to action. Guiding us to action are the teachings of our Church. Catholic social teaching is based on and is inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment.

In 1965, the Second Vatican Council in its document, *Gaudium et Spes* stated: "Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are a supreme dishonor to the Creator."

Today, millions are sold into slavery in sex trafficking, labor trafficking, military trafficking and trafficking of infants. Pope Francis describes human trafficking as, "a despicable activity, a disgrace for our societies."

Pope John Paul II in his *Letter on the Occasion of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Slavery* wrote: "The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave

violation of fundamental human rights. ... Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person. The alarming increase in the

trade in human beings is one of the pressing political, social and economic problems associated with the process of globalization; it presents a serious threat to the security of individual nations and a question of international justice which cannot be deferred. ("The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings" Conference, 2002.)

Pope Francis recognizes that the Church must do more than make statements condemning human trafficking. Therefore, he commissioned representatives from the pontifical academies of Sciences and Social Sciences and the federation to meet and begin examining the size of the problem, its underlying causes and what can be done to help victims and to prevent trafficking. "It is extraordinary that Pope Francis very specifically referred the issue to scholars and researchers in the academies because they will be a major source of getting the work done in our Catholic institutions," said St. Thomas University law professor Roza Pati, director of the Human Trafficking Academy at St. Thomas and a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

As a people of faith we must take action against the proliferation of human trafficking. We can do this by educating ourselves on the issue, incorporating it into our prayers, speaking about it to others, working with anti-trafficking organizations and the Carmelite NGO.

Pope Francis challenges us to exercise 'right order' in our lives when he said, "In a world that talks so much about rights, how many times are human rights trampled?" "In a world that talks so much about rights, the only thing that seems to have them is money. Dear brothers and sisters, we live in a world where money rules. We live in a world, in a culture, where money worship reigns." Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar industry, surpassed only by the sale of weapons and narcotics.

by Jane Remson, O. Carm. - Main Representative



## Human Trafficking: Some Suggested Readings

- *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy*, Kevin Bales, University of California Press,
- *The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today*, Kevin Bales & Ron Soodalter, University of California Press, Berkeley & Los Angeles, 2000.
- *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2009.
- *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective*, Louise Shelley, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- *Not in My Town: Exposing and Ending Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery*, Dillen Burroughs and Charles Powell, New Hope Publishers, 2011



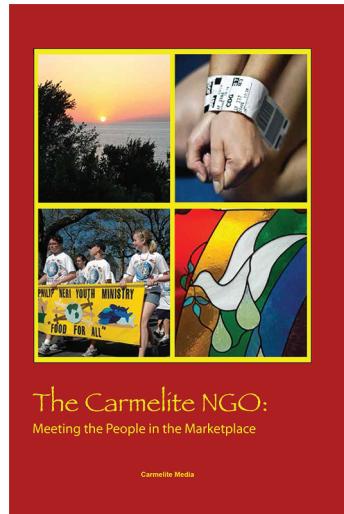
## UN Releases Its 2012 Global Human Trafficking Report

The UN's Office on Drugs and Crime, based in Vienna, has released its 2012 report on the global situation of human trafficking. The report gives a glimpse into the patterns and flows of human trafficking and provides a basis for understanding this modern form of slavery.

Sadly the report reflects an increase in child victims. Trafficking from East Asia remains the most conspicuous globally. Another worrying aspect is the low conviction rate.

There were some positive trends. By 2012, 134 countries had enacted legislation criminalizing trafficking. The percentage of countries without an offence criminalizing this activity halved between 2008 and 2012. Evidence shows that trafficking from Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been declining since 2000.

The full report is available on the website of the Carmelite NGO: [carmelitengo.org](http://carmelitengo.org)



# The Carmelite NGO:

Meeting the People in the Marketplace

a collection of powerful reflections that the Carmelite NGO created focusing on the issues it advocates including:

- o Education
- o Freedom of Belief
- o Human Rights
  - The Right to Food
  - The Right to Personal Safety
- o Sustainable Development
  - Climate Change

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## Eduardo Scarel to Serve as Rep to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O. Carm., a member of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Carmelite NGO and atmospheric scientist, has agreed to serve as the Carmelite representative to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Ordained priest in 2007, Scarel currently works at the Pontifical Argentinian Catholic University in Buenos Aires. He holds a MSc in Atmospheric Sciences and a PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from the National University of Buenos Aires. He did post doctorate studies in the interdisciplinary team for studies on Atmospheric Processes in Global Change at the Catholic University in Buenos Aires where he now teaches.

As a member of the Carmelite NGO, Fr. Eduardo has participated in several international conferences on climate change as a presenter. He serves as a consultant on ecoclogy for the Latin American Bishops' Conference.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC) is an international environmental treaty that was produced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (informally known as the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, June, 1992. Some 195 countries have joined.

The non-binding treaty is aimed at stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system – commonly believed to be around 2°C above the pre-industrial global average temperature.

Since the UNFCCC entered into force, the parties have been meeting annually in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess progress in dealing with climate change, and beginning in the mid-1990s, to negotiate the Kyoto Protocol to establish legally binding obligations for developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

The UNFCCC is also the name of the United Nations Secretariat charged with supporting the operation of the Convention.

For more information, go to: [unfccc.int/2860.php](http://unfccc.int/2860.php)

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