

Indonesia



Population: 242,968,342 (July 2010 est.)

Population Growth Rate: 1.097% (2010 est.)

Birth Rate: 18.45 births/1,000 population (2010 est.)

Life Expectancy: total population: 71.05 years;
male: 68.53 years; female: 73.69 years (2010 est.)

Literacy Rate: total population: 90.4%; male: 94%;
female: 86.8% (2004 est.)

Net Migration Rate: -1.23 migrant(s)/1,000
population (2010 est.)

Unemployment Rate: 7.7% (2009 est.)

Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$4,000 (2009
est.)

Religions: Muslim 86.1%, Protestant 5.7%, Roman
Catholic 3%, Hindu 1.8%, other or unspecified 3.4%
(2000 est.)

Languages: Bahasa Indonesia (official, modified form
of Malay), English, Dutch, local dialects (most
common is Javanese)

Ethnic Groups: Javanese 40.6%, Sundanese 15%,
Madurese 3.3%, Minangkabau 2.7%, Betawi 2.4%,
Bugis 2.4%, Banten 2%, Banjar 1.7%, other
unspecified 29.9% (2000 census)

Capital: Jakarta¹

Trafficking Routes

Indonesia is primarily a country of origin for trafficking in women and children. Indonesian women and children are trafficked to Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, Australia, North America, and Europe.² Additionally, domestic trafficking occurs to Bali, Bintan, Jakarta, Jambi, Papua, Riau, and Surabaya.³ Recent indications show Indonesia as becoming a transit and/or destination country for international trafficking. Police investigations have exposed the presence of foreign women working in prostitution from countries such as China, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine and Venezuela.⁴

Factors That Contribute to the Trafficking Infrastructure

¹ CIA, WORLD FACT BOOK 2009, available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/id.html> (last visited July 8, 2009).

² RUTH ROSENBERG, ED., INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MIGRATION COMMISSION AND AMERICAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR SOLIDARITY TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN INDONESIA, (2003), available at: <http://www.icmc.net/pubs/trafficking-women-and-children-indonesia>.

³ RUTH ROSENBERG, ED. *supra* at 2.

⁴ RUTH ROSENBERG, ED. *supra* at 2.

A Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

There are several leading factors contributing to trafficking in Indonesia. Criminal networks throughout Southeast Asia traffic young girls and women for sexual exploitation.⁵ A lack of awareness when seeking jobs further compounds the vulnerability of women and children to trafficking. As a result, approximately 30 percent of sex workers are younger than 18 years old.⁶ Corrupt law enforcers and weak enforcement of laws in dealing with trafficking cases discourage victims from seeking protection and the prosecution of their traffickers.⁷ Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have reported numerous cases in which police demand fees from victims' families before they agree to investigate allegations.⁸

Although it is difficult to obtain reliable statistics on the levels of economic hardship endured by Indonesians since the Asian economic crisis of 1997, clearly conditions for trafficking and exploitation of women, children, and migrant workers are ideal. According to the World Bank, 17 percent of the population lives under the poverty line.⁹ Poverty is the force that drives people to seek any job without considering the risks of becoming a victim to traffickers.¹⁰

Up to 1.5 million children across a dozen Indian Ocean nations lost one or both parents in the tsunami of December 2004.¹¹ Concerns over trafficking in orphaned children arose and some countries responded immediately. However, the aftermath of the disaster led to opportunities for traffickers to easily pass children, who lacked legal birth certificates, off as adults as they sought work abroad.¹²

In addition, the Bali bombing and the East Timor crisis of 1999 have reportedly led to a surge in the number of Australian pedophiles traveling to Indonesia for sex tourism, as offenders seek people left vulnerable by those crisis situations. The Indonesian government has acknowledged that child prostitution and child sex tourism are major problems, particularly in Bali and Batam.¹³

Forced marriages by parents or other family relatives continue to abound in rural areas. Many of these women are married to men who live outside their communities or even overseas.¹⁴ They then become victims in a foreign land with no opportunity to seek help.

Some families continue to send children to wealthy families or urban relatives to work. Because of the traditional nature of such practices, they might not be recognized as a form of trafficking or as exploitative.¹⁵

⁵ Deborah Haynes, "International Community Must Fight Child Sex Networks in SE Asia: UN," *Agence France Presse*, Apr. 19, 2004. See also Brian Calvert, "In Trafficking Case, Court Balks Again," *Cambodia Daily*, Feb. 27, 2002.

⁶ *Indonesia: Trafficking fuels commercial sex work*, INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS (IRIN), June 3, 2009, available at: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=84678>.

⁷ INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION, HUMAN TRAFFICKING (2008), available at: http://www.idlo.int/DOCNews/Human_trafficking.pdf.

⁸ RUTH ROSENBERG, ED. *supra* at 2.

⁹ The World Bank, Indonesia-Making Social Protection Work for the Poor, <http://go.worldbank.org/F2LPL03T00> (last visited Jan. 28, 2010).

¹⁰ IDLO *supra* at 7.

¹¹ Phong Ly, *Foreign Adoption Resisted; Affected Countries Have Strict Rules*, WASHINGTON POST, Jan. 14, 2005, at A13, available at: http://www.neichild.org/html/news_det.php?id=44_0_2_0.

¹² IDLO *supra* at 7.

¹³ Camden Smith, *Surge in Child Sex Tours*, NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS (AUSTRALIA), Jan. 9, 2004, available at: <http://www.etan.org/et2004/january/04-10/09surgei.htm>.

¹⁴ IDLO *supra* at 7.

¹⁵ RUTH ROSENBERG, ED. *supra* at 2.

Forms of Trafficking

An estimated 100,000 women and children are trafficked from Indonesia annually.¹⁶ Indonesian women and children are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic work, forced marriages, and child labor.¹⁷

Young Indonesian women are vulnerable to trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation primarily in Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore. They are told they are being recruited for positions as cultural ambassadors or traditional dancers in Japan. The recruitment process for Malaysia and Singapore promises them jobs in karaoke bars and restaurants as singers, hostesses, or even domestic workers. When the women arrive in said countries, they are instead forced into providing sexual services.¹⁸

Hundreds of thousands of children are also victims of sexual exploitation in Indonesia and in the surrounding region, in countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.¹⁹ Most clients are older men from foreign countries who profit from the vulnerabilities of the poorest children, including beggars, street children, and the homeless.²⁰ Pedophiles use various approaches to gain access to children, including teaching and tutoring.²¹

Labor migration, legal and illegal, occurs in great numbers. An estimated 700,000 labor migrants have left Indonesia primarily to work in Malaysia and countries in the Middle East.²² Abuse against migrant workers, primarily illegal workers, is compounded by the fact that labor agencies control most aspects of the migration process from Indonesia to Malaysia with very little oversight from either government.²³ Labor agencies, also known as PJTKIs, perpetuate the problem by falsification of documents and a lack of transparency in disclosing terms of work.²⁴

An estimated 688,000 children under the age of 18 are domestic workers in Indonesia. Girls as young as 11 years old are employed as domestic workers performing tasks such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, and child care. Conditions include working 14 to 18 hour workdays seven days a week, earning wages well below minimum requirements, or not receiving wages at all. Abuses of domestic workers include physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. The government excludes child domestic workers from laws protecting the general workforce.²⁵ Because domestic workers often labor in isolation and the government provides little regulatory

¹⁶ UNICEF-Indonesia, Overview-Child Protection, <http://www.unicef.org/indonesia/protection.html> (last visited Jan. 28, 2010).

¹⁷ RUTH ROSENBERG, ED. *supra* at 2.

¹⁸ ABHIJIT DASGUPTA, *An Overview of Trafficking in Indonesia*, WHEN THEY WERE SOLD, 2006, available at: http://solidarityv2.timberlakepublishing.com/files/when_they_were_sold_chapter2.pdf.

¹⁹ *Asia Draws Pedophiles, Experts Ask Why?*, THE IRRAWADDY, Oct. 18, 2007, available at: http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=9043.

²⁰ *Asia Draws Pedophiles supra* at 18.

²¹ *Asia Draws Pedophiles supra* at 18.

²² INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM), INDONESIA FACTS AND FIGURES, available at: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/asia-and-oceania/east-and-south-east-asia/indonesia>. See also, ABHIJIT DASGUPTA, *An Overview of Trafficking in Indonesia*, WHEN THEY WERE SOLD, 2006, available at: http://solidarityv2.timberlakepublishing.com/files/when_they_were_sold_chapter2.pdf. (...extent of trafficking is difficult to estimate because the available data primarily represents the number of men and women working abroad, not whether the migrant workers might have been trafficked).

²³ HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, HELP WANTED: ABUSES AGAINST FEMALE MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS IN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA (2004), available at: <http://hrw.org/reports/2004/indonesia0704>.

²⁴ DASGUPTA *supra* at 17.

²⁵ Press Release, Human Rights Watch, Indonesia: Protect Child Domestic Workers, Feb. 11, 2009, available at: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/02/10/indonesia-protect-child-domestic-workers>.

oversight of their working conditions, cases of abuse and discrimination continue to abound.²⁶ Labor agencies aid in the continuation of this crime by facilitating the demand for underage girls in the domestic work industry.²⁷

Government Responses

The criminal code explicitly prohibits trafficking in women and “underage males.”²⁸ Punishment for such crimes is imprisonment for up to six years.²⁹ The criminal code further prohibits the many abuses committed against child domestic workers including abuse, assault, the use or the threat of the use of violence to coerce action, sexual harassment, rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, slave trading, trafficking, and murder.³⁰

The criminal code also holds that an individual making “use of force in forcing a woman to have sexual intercourse with a man outside of marriage, is guilty of rape; punishment for such an act is imprisonment for a maximum of 12 years.”³¹

The code prohibits engaging in an “obscene act” or facilitating an obscene act committed by a person as part of a job or habit.³² Punishment is a fine or imprisonment for up to one year and four months.³³

The code prohibits enticing an immature person to engage in an “obscene act” by promising cash or material goods, by abusing power arising from circumstantial relations, or by leading the person astray.³⁴ Any person who, by the use of violence or the threat of violence, forces or allows another to commit an obscene act is subject to punishment of imprisonment for nine years.³⁵ Committing an obscene act with a person “who is recognized to be or should be presumed to be” under 15 years of age is punishable by imprisonment for up to seven years.³⁶ Making a profit and living off the earnings from an obscene act [E: imposed on?] a woman is an offense punishable by imprisonment for up to one year.³⁷

Giving or surrendering a child under the age of 12 for begging or for hazardous work is punishable by imprisonment for four years.³⁸

Abducting an underage woman to ensure power over her is an offense punishable by imprisonment for up to seven years. Abducting a woman by fraud, force, or threat of force to

²⁶ HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WORKERS IN THE SHADOWS-SUMMARY, 2009, *available at*: <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/80402/section/2>.

²⁷ HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WORKERS IN THE SHADOWS-THE ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILD DOMESTIC WORKERS-A CONTINUING SITUATION, 2009, *available at*: <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/80402/section/4>.

²⁸ Penal Code of Indonesia, art. 297, *available at*: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ffc09ae2.html>.

²⁹ *Supra* at 27, art. 297, (Indonesia), *available at*: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ffc09ae2.html> (In addition to these Criminal Code provisions, article 65 of Law No. 39/1999 on Human Rights states, “Every child has a right to enjoy protection from exploitation and sexual harassment, abduction, child trafficking, and from various forms of misuse of narcotics, psychotropic drugs, and other addictive substances”).

³⁰ HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, WORKERS IN THE SHADOWS-CURRENT DOMESTIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK, 2009, *available at*: <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/80402/section/5>.

³¹ Penal Code of Indonesia, art. 285.

³² *Supra* at 27, art. 296.

³³ *Id.* at 31, art. 296.

³⁴ *Id.* at 31, art. 293.

³⁵ *Id.* at 31, art. 289.

³⁶ *Id.* at 31, art. 290.

³⁷ *Id.* at 31, art. 506.

³⁸ *Id.* at 31, art. 301.

ensure power over her is punishable by imprisonment for up to nine years.³⁹ Deliberate removal of an underage person from the protection of his or her legal guardian is an offense punishable by imprisonment for seven years.⁴⁰

Hiding an underage person who has been removed from his or her legal guardian or from the supervision of an authorized person is an offense punishable by imprisonment for four years. If such a person is under the age of 12, the punishment is increased to imprisonment for seven years.⁴¹ Deliberate and illegal deprivation of the freedom of another person is punishable by imprisonment for up to eight years.⁴²

The transplantation of human organs or body tissues or the transfusion of blood for commercial purposes is punishable by imprisonment for up to 15 years and a fine.⁴³

The Law on Immigration Affairs prohibits any person “who is known or suspected to be involved in international organized crime” from entering Indonesian territories.⁴⁴

In 2004, the Indonesian government passed Law No. 23/2004 regarding the Elimination of Violence in the Household. The law has expanded the definitions of domestic violence and the potential victims of that violence, and criminalized sexual harassment.⁴⁵

Also, in 2007 the Law on the Eradication of the Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons went into effect. The law now provides a more comprehensive definition to better prosecute traffickers. Furthermore, if trafficking crimes involve children, the punishment is a maximum of 15 years imprisonment.⁴⁶ The law also criminalizes sexual exploitation and includes provisions for the immunity of victims.⁴⁷

The Indonesian National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Elimination of Trafficking in Women and Children was enacted Dec. 30, 2002, through Presidential Decree No. 88, 2002. The NPA is the “foundation and guidance for the government and the public in the implementation of the elimination of trafficking in women and children.” It is designed to be implemented over a five-year period and to be reviewed and revised every five years thereafter. The objectives of the NPA are “to guarantee improvement and advancement in efforts to protect the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children; to formulate preventive as well as punitive measures in the campaign to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially trafficking involving women and children; to encourage development and/or improvement in the laws dealing with trafficking in persons activities, especially such activities that involve women and children.” The NPA is divided into five intervention categories: legislation and law enforcement, prevention of all forms of trafficking, protection and victims’ assistance, participation of women and children, and building of cooperation and coordination.⁴⁸

³⁹ *Id.* at 31, art. 332.

⁴⁰ *Id.* at 31, art. 330.

⁴¹ *Id.* at 31, art. 331.

⁴² *Id.* at 31, art. 333.

⁴³ Law No. 23/1992 on Health, article 80(3).

⁴⁴ Law No. 19/1992 on Immigration Affairs, article 17.

⁴⁵ AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, UNFINISHED BUSINESS: POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN INDONESIA, 2009, available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA21/013/2009/en>.

⁴⁶ UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, 2007 FINDINGS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR-INDONESIA (2008), available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,USDOL,,IDN,4562d8cf2.48caa477c.0.html>.

⁴⁷ AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA-AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2008, available at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/indonesia/report-2008>.

⁴⁸ Human Trafficking.org, Indonesia Labor Welfare Union/Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia (SBSI), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/122/>.

The Act of the Republic of Indonesia, No. 39 was passed for the protection of citizens who work abroad. The law provides severe penalties for persons or agencies that place migrant workers in situations that are harmful or conflict with customary law.⁴⁹ As of October 2008, new labor laws are still in the works with the Yogyakarta city council. However, the draft labor law is extremely weak and does not provide domestic workers with even the minimum standards of employment that other workers receive.⁵⁰

Nongovernmental and International Organization Responses

Numerous local NGOs work to prevent trafficking through the improvement of women and children's lives or by providing assistance to trafficking victims and other victims of exploitation. In 2001, the Center for Study and Child Protection (Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak or PKPA) formed a division in North Sumatra to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children.⁵¹ The Consortium of Indonesia Migrant Workers (Konssorsium Pembela Buruh Migran Indonesia-KOPBUMI) focuses on migrant workers' rights. KOPBUMI also assists women who are subject to violent work environments and handles such cases along with conducting awareness campaigns.⁵² The Arek Lintang Foundation is involved in the development of advocacy groups for children's rights in Indonesia, along with assisting child victims of sexual exploitation and monitoring the efforts of the government.⁵³ The Foundation for Indonesian Children's Welfare (Yayasan Kesejahteraan Anak Indonesia) conducts research, seminars, training, information campaigns, and runs advocacy shelters and hotline services.⁵⁴ The Indonesian Institute for Children Advocacy (Lembaga Advokasi Anak Indonesia) works to monitor and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Indonesia.⁵⁵ The Indonesian Women's Association for Justice (Asosiasi Perempuan Indonesia untuk Keadilan) gives direct legal aid to women who have been victims of violence and discrimination.⁵⁶ The National Coalition Against Violence to Women (Komnas Perempuan) endeavors to increase public understanding of sexual assault and violence against women and to eliminate all forms of violence against women by advocating legal and policy reform.⁵⁷ The National Commission for

⁴⁹ INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO), *THE COST OF COERCION*, 2009, *available at*: http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Informationresources/ILOPublications/lang--en/docName--WCMS_106268/index.htm.

⁵⁰ Bede Sheppard, *Proposed labor law ignores Yogyakarta's youngest workers*, Bernas Jogja, Oct. 13, 2008, *available at*: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/10/17/indone20000.htm>.

⁵¹ Human Trafficking.org, Center for Study and Child Protection/Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/125> (last visited July 2009).

⁵² Human Trafficking.org, Consortium of Indonesia Migrant Workers/Konssorsium Pembela Buruh Migran Indonesia (KOPBUMI), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/126> (last visited July 2009).

⁵³ Human Trafficking.org, Star Children/Arek Litang (ALIT), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/117> (last visited July 2009).

⁵⁴ Human Trafficking.org, Foundation for Indonesian Children's Welfare/Yayasan Kesejahteraan Anak Indonesia (YKAI), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/127>.

⁵⁵ Human Trafficking.org, Indonesian Institute for Children Advocacy / Lembaga Advokasi Anak Indonesia (LAAI), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/128>.

⁵⁶ Indonesian Women's Association for Justice/Asosiasi Perempuan Indonesia untuk Keadilan (APIK), *The Indonesian Women's Association for Justice Gender and Transformative Legal Aid: Analysis of APIK*, <http://www.lbh-apik.or.id/gd%20&%20transformative.htm> (last visited July 2009).

⁵⁷ Human Trafficking.org, National Coalition against Violence to Women (KOMNAS Perempuan), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/114>.

Child Protection (Komisi Nasional Perlindungan Anak) works to protect against violations of children's rights, and to help their families and communities to do the same.⁵⁸

Other NGOs working to improve the lives of children in Indonesia include the Children Protection Agency (Lembaga Perlindungan Anak) and the Education Committee of Creative Indonesian Children (Komite Pendidikan Anak-Anak Kreatif Indonesia) in Jakarta; Girli in Yogyakarta; the Awareness Group (Kelompok Sadar) in Surabaya, East Java; and the Committee Against Sexual Abuse in Bali.⁵⁹

Several international and foreign NGOs are active in Indonesia. Terres des Hommes's regional office for Southeast Asia is located in Jakarta and covers four countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The programs focus on vulnerable groups, including at-risk children, prostituted children, and child and female victims of trafficking.⁶⁰ AusAID's Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project (from 2006 until 2011) is working with Indonesia and its neighbors to improve access to justice for victims of trafficking. AusAID is also financially supporting Child Wise in developing a five-year Transition Plan for a Sustainable Response to Child Sex Tourism in South East Asia.⁶¹

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has several programs to prevent and combat trafficking in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. A project called Mobilizing Action for the Protection of Domestic Workers From Forced Labor and Trafficking in South-East Asia aims to address the needs and concerns of domestic workers in Indonesia and the Philippines. The Indonesian component of the ILO and IPEC Project on Combating Child Trafficking for Labor and Sexual Exploitation in South and South-East Asia—Phase II aims to contribute to the elimination of trafficking in children and the sexual exploitation of women. Another ILO and IPEC effort, the project to Support the National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, will implement small-scale pilot interventions to prevent child trafficking and rehabilitate and reintegrate child trafficking victims. The Action Program on Child Domestic Workers aims to increase community awareness of the issue.⁶²

Multilateral Initiatives

In July 2004, the Indonesian police chief and his Australian counterpart inaugurated the Crime Coordination Center to exchange information about transnational crimes, such as narcotics trafficking, terrorism, and trafficking in persons. The Australian government donated \$7 million toward the establishment of the center.⁶³

In May 2003, the East Asian and Pacific ministerial meeting on children took place in Bali, with ministers and senior government officials, NGO representatives, and other

⁵⁸ Human Trafficking.org, National Commission for Child Protection/ Komisi Nasional Perlindungan Anak (NCCP), <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/115>.

⁵⁹ Aditya Nusantara, Magdalena Damayanti, *Bali, Safe Haven for International Pedophiles*, JAKARTA POST, Aug. 29, 2002, available at: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2002/08/29/bali-safe-haven-international-pedophiles.html>.

⁶⁰ HUMAN TRAFFICKING.ORG, TERRE DES HOMMES—NETHERLANDS, <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/109> (last visited July 2009).

⁶¹ Australian Government, AusAID-Regional East Asia, <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/country/country.cfm?CountryID=82431878&Region=EastAsia>.

⁶² Human Trafficking.org, International Labor Organization (ILO) Indonesia, <http://www.humantrafficking.org/organizations/107> (last visited July 2009).

⁶³ Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre, Global Collaborative, 2008, available at: <http://www.globalcollab.org/Nautilus/australia/australia-in-pacific/pacific-transnational-crime-coordination-centre>.

representatives from 23 countries attending. The participants unanimously adopted the “Bali Consensus,” which underlines the need for governments in the region to fulfill children’s rights and protect them.⁶⁴

The Medan Declaration was the outcome of a two-day international conference on child trafficking held in March 2004. Through the declaration, Indonesia is expected to follow the steps of Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand in taking strict measures against child traffickers. Government officials, NGO activists, and academics from 16 Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, attended the conference. The participants agreed to combat child trafficking for sexual exploitation in the region. The United Nations Children’s Fund organized the conference.⁶⁵

In May 2004, Malaysia and Indonesia signed an agreement on labor migration. Human Rights Watch criticized the agreement for denying basic protections to migrant workers and for excluding household workers. The agreement was designed to regulate recruitment procedures for the hundreds of thousands of Indonesians who migrate to Malaysia every year.⁶⁶ As of July 2004, both countries were negotiating a memorandum of understanding on domestic workers.⁶⁷

In the United States, the Child Soldiers Accountability Act was passed effective Oct. 3, 2008, making it illegal to utilize soldiers under age 15. This is important in Indonesia, where child soldiers have been recruited.⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Press Release, UNICEF, East Asian and Pacific Nations Act for Children (May 7, 2003), *available at*: http://www.unicef.org/media/media_7135.html.

⁶⁵ *Indonesia Should Take Harsh Measures against Child Traffickers, UNICEF Says*, ANTARA, Mar. 31, 2004, *available at*: http://www.accessmylibrary.com/coms2/summary_0286-4659505_ITM.

⁶⁶ Press Release, Human Rights Watch, Malaysia: Labor Accord Fails Indonesian Migrant Workers: Bilateral Agreement Denies Basic Labor Protections, Excludes Domestic Workers (May 11, 2004), *available at*: <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2004/05/10/malaysia-labor-accord-fails-indonesian-migrant-workers>.

⁶⁷ Human Rights Watch *supra* at 22.

⁶⁸ Press Release, Human Rights Watch, Child Soldiers and U.S. Legislation: Occurs in Thailand, Burma, Indonesia (Oct. 3, 2008), *available at*: <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2008/10/03/usint19912.htm>.