

**PRESS RELEASE: The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University  
School of Advanced International Studies**



**The United States commends the efforts of the Egyptian government  
to combat human trafficking**

Thursday, June 27, 2010—In its 10th Annual Trafficking in Persons Report, the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons praised efforts made by the government of Egypt to combat trafficking in persons and moved Egypt from Tier 2 Watch List (WL) to Tier 2, which includes countries that are making significant efforts to combat the problem, such as vigorously investigating and prosecuting acts of trafficking, protecting victims of trafficking, and informing and educating the public about the causes and consequences of trafficking.

Of the 177 countries discussed in the 2010 TIP Report, only 30 are listed on Tier 1 and only 23 countries have improved their ranking since 2009. Among Arab countries, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are placed on Tier 3 and Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen are placed on Tier 2WL.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, introducing the new report on 14 June 2010, stated that, “There are success stories that can serve as models going forward...Egypt enacted the first-ever comprehensive anti-trafficking law and is starting a rehabilitation center at a major hospital.”

Likewise, Ambassador Luis C. de Baca, Director of the Office To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, made special note of the efforts of the Government of Egypt this year, stating,

“The Egyptian Government’s progress in combating human trafficking over the last year is particularly evident in its enactment of a comprehensive law and its greater law enforcement and prevention efforts to confront fraudulent short-term marriages, often termed summer marriages, of Egyptian girls, which is a thinly veiled cover for the prostitution of children...We’re very encouraged by what we’re seeing coming out of Egypt.”

Dr. Mohamed Mattar, Executive Director of The Protection Project at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, explains the basic principles of the newly-enacted Law No. 64 of 2010 regarding Combating Human Trafficking. Dr. Mattar highlights five specific provisions of the Egyptian law that make it a model of comparative legislation. First, the

law recognizes a trafficked person as a victim once she suffers harm, whether material, moral, or economic. Second, the law defines human trafficking very broadly to cover all forms of exploitation, including “exploitation of acts of prostitution and all forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation of children in such acts and in pornography, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery or servitude, or begging or removal of human organs, tissues or a part thereof.” Third, the law provides for the principle of non-punishments, stating specifically that, “The victim shall not be criminally or civilly liable for any of the crimes of human trafficking as long as the crime occurred or was directly related to being a victim.” Fourth, the law provides for the principle of compensation of victims through the establishment of a State Fund, making it a state responsibility to provide protection and assistance to victims of human trafficking. Fifth, the law applies on an extraterritorial basis regardless of where the trafficking act was committed.

The 2010 TIP report acknowledges the various forms of trafficking in Egypt, referring specifically to commercial sexual exploitation, begging, marriages, sex tourism, forced labor and domestic servitude. The report made several recommendations to address these problems, including: increasing law enforcement activities, applying formal victim identification procedures, and implementing a comprehensive public information campaign to educate the public.

“I trust that the newly-established National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Persons, chaired by Ambassador Naela Gabr, will successfully implement these important measures,” said Dr. Mattar.

The report recognizes the significant accomplishments made by the various agencies of the government with regards to prevention, protection and prosecution, including: the Egyptian Parliament, the Ministry of Justice, The National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the Ministry of Health.

Regarding prevention, the 2010 TIP Report made specific reference to significant efforts made by the Egyptian government, especially the study of “summer marriages” and the establishment of a hotline by the NCCM in August 2009 to report instances of the practice and to counsel victims, and the launching of a campaign against underage marriages to Arab tourists in villages in the 6th of October Governorate.

On protection, the report highlighted the operation of 19 drop-in centers for street children, women, and the disabled that may have provided care to trafficking victims by the Ministry of Social Solidarity; the establishment of a center by the Ministry for Family and Population where an NGO began rehabilitating victims of child trafficking in Cairo’s Dar El Salaam area; the continued operations of the day center in Cairo by the NCCM, which rehabilitates abused street boys involved in forced begging or petty crime and provides counseling, medical care, and literacy and computer classes in collaboration with an NGO; the agreement for the establishment of a trafficking victims’ care center at a public hospital in Cairo between the Ministry of Health and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to be staffed by MOH employees trained in identifying and assisting trafficking victims; and the continued operation by NCCM of

a 24-hour hotline to respond to complaints of child abuse, which may have received calls related to commercial short-term marriages.

And on prosecution, the report commended Egypt on a number of measures, including: the approval of new legislation criminalizing all forms of human trafficking and prescribing penalties “sufficiently stringent and commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious offenses, such as rape”; the conviction of two men for forced prostitution of eight street children with wealthy Egyptians and tourists from the Gulf; the conviction of two marriage registrars under the anti-trafficking provisions of the Child Law of 2008; the prosecution and charging of five suspects for facilitating the marriage of an under-age girl to an older man from Saudi Arabia; the arrest of 27 marriage registrars for registering the commercial marriage of under-age girls; the training of approximately 500 prosecutors, judges, police officers, Ministry of Tourism employees, labor inspectors, and social workers on human trafficking by the National Council of Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM); and the training of police officials through a collaboration between IOM and the Ministry of Interior, in which government officials provided the training facility and led several of the training modules.

These efforts were also applauded by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, at the conclusion of her 11-day fact-finding mission to Egypt from 11 – 21 April, 2010, conducted at the invitation of the government. The Special Rapporteur made mention of the “visionary leadership of the First Lady, H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, in raising public awareness and mobilizing the government, corporate sector and civil society organizations nationally and internationally in the fight against trafficking in persons.” She noted the “encouraging and innovative programme at the Faculty of Law at the University of Alexandria, which is designed to provide legal aid services to trafficked victims” and the establishment of a health and well being clinic for women, including specific responses to treat victims of gender-based violence, at the Suzanne Mubarak Regional Centre for Women, Health and Development. Ms. Ezeilo also emphasized the importance of developing a national action plan that is “comprehensive, holistic and integrative” to combat the problem in Egypt.

“Any national action plan should examine the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in her report, as well as the recommendations specified in the 2010 TIP Report,” Dr. Mattar remarked. He also added the importance of including the recommendations made at the First National Meeting, sponsored by the First Lady of Egypt H.E. Suzanne Mubarak, that was held earlier this year to discuss National Efforts for Combating Human Trafficking.