



CARMEngo

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The Church sees this entire world of suffering and violence through the eyes of Jesus, who was moved with pity at the sight of the crowds wandering as sheep without a shepherd (Mt 9:36). Hope, courage, love and "creativity in charity" ("Novo Millennio Ineunte," No. 50) must inspire the necessary human and Christian efforts made to help these brothers and sisters in their suffering.

Pope Benedict XVI



TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN ON THE RISE

Criminal Industry Generating Billions Receives Little Attention

Sexual exploitation is by far the most commonly identified form of human trafficking, followed by forced labor. Children are not exempt from human trafficking. The exploitation of children in begging, sex trade and warfare is real and rising.

To date, global efforts to combat trafficking in persons have focused on the criminalization of trafficking, along with measures to protect and assist victims. By comparison, relatively little attention has been given to the business of human trafficking – a worldwide criminal industry that generates billions of dollars in yearly profits. By some estimates, this industry is not only thriving, but also growing. In 2005, the International Labor Organization (ILO) issued a report that estimates profits from sex trafficking at \$217.8 billion a year or \$23,000 per victim.

“**Trafficking of children as beggars, prostitutes, and soldiers is real and on the increase.**”

Forced begging is another way children are exploited. Ali's story is not unusual for a child beggar. At the age of ten, Ali needed work to support his parents and 3 sisters. He jumped at the chance to travel to a wealthy neighboring country for work when his uncle offered to take him. Once there, his uncle made him sit on the street for 16 hours a day in scorching heat without shoes or proper clothing. His job was to beg for money, and if he did not make enough, his un-

cle beat him and threatened to hurt his sisters back home. When his uncle left the country, he sold Ali to a friend – for a discount since Ali was getting too old to beg properly. The friend treated Ali even worse than his uncle; he would beat and starve Ali and the other children. When Ali tried to run away, his owner cut off his fingers as punishment. At age 13, police arrested Ali for overstaying his visa in that country and put him in jail.

In some countries, unscrupulous individuals exploit cultural and religious practices to facilitate forced begging. In a number of predominantly Muslim West African countries, for example, traffickers posing as Koranic teachers, known as *marabout*, recruit boys. Parents willingly send their children with these men due to the long-standing cultural tradition of giving children to religious instructors who will teach them fundamental Muslim values. Instead, these false *marabout* take children from their villages to big cities, where they force them to walk along busy highways, often without shoes on the hot tarmac and weave between cars asking for money. The teachers force the children, some as young as 4 years old, to do this for up to 12 hours a day. If the children return without a minimum amount of money, they are sometimes severely beaten, to the point of having permanent scars.

Digging for copper in the Congo, children as young as 8 years work in the mines under dangerous conditions.

Armed conflict, more than any other force, has transformed the lives of millions of children and women. Children and their families are not just getting caught in the crossfire. Many are being targeted. In the past decade alone, an estimated 2 million children have been killed in armed conflict. Three times as many have been seriously injured or permanently disabled. Countless others have been forced to witness or even to take part in horrifying acts of violence.

Life on the front lines often brings children face to face with the horrors of war. A child soldier is defined as a person under the age of 18 whom directly or indirectly participates in an armed conflict as part of an armed force or group. While some children wield assault rifles, machetes, or rocket-propelled grenades on the front lines, others are used in combat support roles as messengers, spies, cooks, porters, sexual slaves and mine clearers. It is not uncommon for them to participate in killing and raping. In most of the armed conflicts raging in the world an estimated 300,000 children are active participants in combat.

Too many children have personally experienced or witnessed extremes of physical violence, including executions, death squad killings, disappearances, torture, arrest, sexual abuse, bombings, forced displacement, destruction of home and property and massacres. "I've seen people get their hands cut off, a ten year old girl raped and then die, and so many men and women

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CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information or to add your name and address to our mailing list, please visit our website (carmelitengo.org) or write to us by email (jremson@carmelitengo.org) or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA)



Upcoming UN Conferences:

62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference
For Peace and Development:
Disarm Now!
www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/

UN Climate Change Conference
Copenhagen, Denmark
en.cop15.dk/

Addition Web Resources: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Teach Kids Peace
www.teachkidspeace.org/doc300.php

Coalition to Stop the Use of
Child Soldiers
www.child-soldiers.org/home

Trafficking in Persons.com
traffickinginpersons.com

The SOLD Project
thesoldproject.com

*For your convenience, these and
other resources are linked under
"Special Issues" on our website:
carmelitengo.org*

All photos courtesy of Colin Mearns.
From the Mary's Meals website: www.marysmeals.org/
Used with permission.

European Meeting Demonstrates Broad Involvement

A meeting of the European section of the Carmelite NGO took place at The Friars in Aylesford, England, on May 2–3, 2009. The participants came from the Carmelite provinces of Great Britain, Ireland, Upper Germany, Spain and the Netherlands. Sr. Jane Remson, the main representative of the Carmelite NGO to the UN, and Sr. Anna Theresa Nyadombo, a Handmaid of Our Lady of Mt Carmel from Zimbabwe studying in Ireland, also participated.

The report on Zimbabwe highlighting that in February 2009 the three main political parties had formed a government. This was an attempt to stop the economic crisis which has been marked by an acute shortage of food, medicines, hard cash, deepening poverty, and a high rate of unemployment. The violence during the election has left many people homeless and without basic necessities.

The members of Karit, the NGO of the four Carmelite provinces in Spain, gave updates on the various projects they are involved with in South America, Africa and Timor Este. Karit also trains young people throughout Spain how they can provide assistance to the needy in other countries. Karit is recognized and subsidized by the Carmelites, the Spanish government as well as private organizations.

The group received an update on "MUSA'ADE" – help and hope for Bethlehem. Unemployment in Bethlehem runs approximately 50%. The price of food has doubled in many cases. Many shops have been forced to close. MUSA'ADE keeps 1550 people informed about the situation in Palestine via weekly emails. Other activities include relief operations in Bethlehem, support for the sale of religious goods produced in Bethlehem, and pilgrimages to Bethlehem.

This year's two main focuses for the Carmelite NGO, human trafficking and climate change, were highlighted.

A representative of SRTV (a foundation against trafficking of women) in the Netherlands and the coordinator of the Medaille Trust of the United Kingdom spoke about their work and the plight of the victims of trafficking. Both organization are working for the eradication of the trafficking of human beings for sexual, economic, and labor exploitation.

Jane Remson, speaking on climate change, gave details about the effects of climate change in the Louisiana where the hurricane Katrina wrecked major destruction.

As part of its work on climate change, the Carmelite NGO in Europe plans to conduct a pilot study of the "greenness" of Carmelite communities in the Netherlands and Germany. Depending on the success of this survey/inquiry, similar studies may be conducted in other provinces in Europe.

The European section of the Carmelite NGO continues to take shape as more provinces and communities become involved in its activities.

The Carmelite NGO presents Carmelite spirituality on issues before the United Nations and familiarizes the Carmelite Family with United Nation's programs and issues. It is a way to remain loyal to our tradition and to put faith into action.

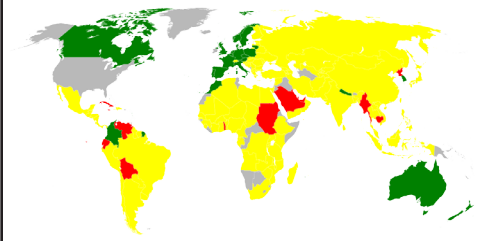
Our presence is seen as ever more critical as various groups at the UN have stated the need for a spiritual presence in UN legislation as so many modern problems have a profound spiritual element. The General Assembly of the UN has long relied on information provided by NGOs around the world because of their familiarity with problems on the local level.

While affiliated to the UN, the Carmelite NGO has allied itself with several like minded organizations, including RUN (Religious at the UN), NGO of Religious called UNANIMA international, UN Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), International Labor Organization (ILO).

Report courtesy of Arie Kuil, O. Carm.

Globalized Human Trafficking

Findings of 2005 USA State Department Trafficking in Persons Report:



The United States of America Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) requires an annual report from the Secretary of State on the global situation. The TVPA outlines minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. Countries that do not make significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards receive a Tier 3 ranking in this report. Such an assessment could prompt the United States to withhold non humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance.

In assessing foreign governments' efforts, the report highlights the "three P's"—prosecution, protection, and prevention. But a victim-centered approach to trafficking also requires attention to the "three R's"—rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

Guide to the Map:

Green: Tier 1 (Full compliance with the minimum standards of the TVPA)

Yellow: Tier 2 (Significant efforts to comply with TVPA)

Red: Tier 3 (No efforts to comply with TVPA)

Grey: No data

Child Soldiers in Our World



This map indicates only situations in which children have actively participated in conflict. It does not show all countries where children are recruited into government armed forces or armed groups.

According to the *Coalition to Stop Child Soldiers*, many children are forcibly recruited into armed groups but the vast majority of child soldiers are adolescents who "volunteer" to join up. A number of factors may be involved in making such a decision and many such adolescents see few alternatives to enlisting. Economic, social, community and family structures are frequently ravaged by armed conflict and joining the ranks of the fighters is often the only means of survival. Many youths have reported that desire to avenge the killing of relatives or other violence arising from war is an important motive. Poverty and lack of access to educational or work opportunities are additional factors.



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burned alive... So many times I just cried inside my heart because I didn't dare cry out loud," said a 14 year old girl, abducted in 2000.

No area is immune to this issue. The United States Pentagon sponsors programs for approximately 400,000 high school boys and girls where they are taught to march, shoot, act and think like soldiers. More than half of all European States accept under 18 year olds in their armed forces. The United Kingdom routinely sends 17 year olds into combat. According to their official statistics from January 1999, there were a total of 6,676 male and female 16 and 17 year olds and over 128,000 cadets from the ages of 10 to 16 in training schools around the country. Similarly, military schools are a common feature across Latin America,

Asia and Africa.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1959. Principle #2 of the declaration states; "The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interest of the child shall be the paramount consideration." Principle #9 of the declaration states; "The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation. He shall not be the subject of traffic, in any form. The child shall not be admitted to employment before an appropriate minimum age; he shall in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education, or interfere with his physical, mental or moral development.

*Jane Remson, O. Carm.
Main Representative of the Carmelite NGO*

For more information go to:

www.state.gov/g/tip
www.un.org,

www.unanima-international.org
www.un.gift.org



Upcoming DPI/NGO Conference Set for Mexico

The 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference is being held in Mexico City under the banner "For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!"

Participants from around the world will gather from 9 to 11 September, 2009, to discuss how they can contribute to reducing arms while advancing peace. The current global economic and food crises have necessitated a realignment of the world's financial resources.

The conference aims to highlight effective ways in which civil society can contribute to the advancement of disarmament, peace and development at the international, regional, national and local levels. We also expect to generate greater global awareness of disarmament issues and strengthen commitments to address them among diverse stakeholders worldwide.

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