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The American University in Cairo
School of Global Affairs & Public Policy

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EGYPT: POLICY &
ALTERNATIVES?**

A Thesis Submitted to the

Public Policy and Administration Department

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Public Policy

By

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Under the supervision of

Dr. Hamid E. Ali

Professor of Public Policy and Administration

May 2012

The American University in Cairo

School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

Department of Public Policy and Administration

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EGYPT: POLICY & ALTERNATIVES

Bernadette Michel Fakhry Guirguis

Supervised By Dr. Hamid Ali

ABSTRACT

This thesis attempts to analyze the issues associated with human trafficking in context to relevant policies and possible alternatives in Egypt. This growing industry is based on Egypt's strategic location, and it has raised several concerns, as a growing number of individuals are being forced into marriages, prostitution, labor, and organ trading. The main research question is: how effective are the Egyptian government policies to combat the human trafficking and in what areas could they be improved. Thus, this calls for the immediate attention of policy makers. It has been identified in this paper that better governance and administrative policies can improve and abate this problem. Some other factors that can help control the situation are an increased awareness among the Egyptian populace, establishment of stringent policies and adherence to them, and better border control practices. This paper has used reviewed secondary literature on this subject and accumulated the understanding from several interviews with victims to show the manner in which the human trafficking business in Egypt can be curbed and eliminated.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is the phenomenon wherein a person is or a group of people are taken against their will, usually for the purpose of forced labor, sexual forced labor or prostitution, or involuntary organ harvesting (UNODC, 2011a). The people who are captured by force or tricked into accompanying the traffickers are then taken from their place of origin to be released in another area where they are to either serve as forced labor or be used for other economic purposes (such as organ harvesting) for the profit of the individual or groups that handled their transfer. Human trafficking is illegal, and the vast majority of countries ban almost all forms of trafficking and related practices from forced marriages to prostitution; however, this practice persists. The United Nations has created a group of experts to investigate the practice and how it is being combated. However, despite great efforts being made at the global level, the problem remains a serious issue, and many human trafficking experts conclude that human trafficking will continue to expand in the 21st century because of global inequalities and growing needs for cheap labor (Shelley, 2010). Even in the face of programs designed to combat the industry, human trafficking continues to thrive and victimize thousands of individuals (Shelley, 2010).

At present, Egypt serves primarily as a transit country in the flow of human trafficking, although Egyptians themselves are sometimes also victimized (Calandrucio, 2005; McCabe and Manian, 2010; US Department of State, 2010). People in marginal social positions and the physically weak such as women and children are the primary victims. Egypt is one of the current hot spots of human trafficking that the United Nations is focusing on (Esveld, 2008; McCabe and Manian, 2010; US Department of State, 2010; United Nations High Commissioner on

Refugees, 2011). The Sinai region, being the central path for the transport process, poses an especially potent challenge to the credibility of the central government's command and control over their own country. This work attempts to define the present Egyptian problem with human trafficking. By determining the degree of impact and the nature of the industry in Egypt, policy alternatives are advanced.

Background of the Problem

Globalization initiatives have been designed in the hope that legitimate enterprises would prosper and spread, benefiting businesses, governments and workers alike. But illegal enterprises have also benefited because of globalization's opening of borders, increased need for cheap labor and flow of difficult-to-trace capital. One of the enterprises that has benefited most perversely and substantially is the human trafficking and smuggling industry (US Government Accountability Office, 2006).

There are many reasons behind human trafficking: poverty, the need for cheap labor for certain industries, the need that some perceive for compliant domestic workers and servants that are retained in the long-term, refugee crises and the subsequent vulnerability of those people traveling between nations with virtually no one knowing who they are or where they are going, failed states and the impact these states have upon their neighbors, etc. This complexity of motivation and causes is one reason why it is very important that the topic be given particular attention, particularly when it comes to explaining the growth of the operation relative to the emergence of other industries that have branched out of it. Of greatest importance are, the cruelty inherent to the practice and the threat the practice poses to human rights, labor rights and the legitimacy of states. The industry of human trafficking has become the supply operation that allowed an open door for the growth of such other illicit activities as

forced child labor, prostitution, organ trafficking and other services that the trafficked individuals could offer (Watson, 2006; US Department of State, 2010; Esveld, 2008; McCabe and Manian, 2010; US Department of State, 2010; United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, 2011). In line with the growth of other industries involved in the operation, it could also be observed how human trafficking has grown dramatically in prevalence and effect during recent years: Sex trafficking has become a colossal problem in Russia for example; Catholic Relief Services (2010) allege that “trafficking in people has exploded in recent years”; as it grew as billion industry and continuing growing rapidly with “conservative estimates” putting the number of people trafficked at up to two million (Aronowitz, 2009; Destefano, 2007; FBI, 2009; Malarek, 2003; Skinner, 2008). Most of this human trafficking is for sex, and this sex trade is a major vector for the spread of HIV (Aronowitz, 2009; Destefano, 2007). At present, an estimated forty million people, including twenty-seven million adults and thirteen million children, have been or are victims of human trafficking (Aronowitz, 2009; Destefano, 2007). Human trafficking disproportionately affects the most vulnerable communities, especially including those being stricken with the effects of poverty. The low-end living situation of those who are included in the poor communities specifically jeopardizes the chance of these individuals escape of being victimized by the industry. Understanding the causes, the roots and the drivers of this industry could probably help in the campaign towards cutting down the current effects that it has on modern society, these effects include the propagation of AIDS, the worsening of refugee crises, the harm to human and labor rights, profiteering by criminal enterprises, tens of thousands of deaths, rampant abuse and the loss of productivity from millions of people denied real work opportunity to improve themselves and often violently victimized and thereby permanently harmed. In North

Korea, for example, at least seventy two percent of people fleeing (nine out of ten of women refugees who make up eighty percent of those fleeing) are victimized when they come into China (Kelly, 2005). This thesis seeks to connect and analyze the rational explanations behind each stage of human trafficking and its development from small scale operation into an international business involving large organizations, and then to explore the impact of these organizations upon traffickers with a focus on Egypt specifically.

Significance of the Problem

Human trafficking, and to a lesser extent illicit human smuggling, are threats not only to the individuals whose lives are destroyed and who became victims of rape and physical abuse, but also see their human rights and sovereignty being violated. Further, human trafficking and modern-day forced labor serves to further harm legitimate laborers, who face distorted competition and thus see their wages decline. Human trafficking and smuggling is a threat to the legitimacy of regimes and to their ability to effectively command and control their territories (Federation of American Scientists, 1998; Bruch, 2004; Brand, 2010). The criminal enterprises that engage in human trafficking have been considered dangers even to the United States (Federation of American Scientists, 1998; National Intelligence Council, 2010). Notably, getting to the bottom of this issue shall require a clearer identification of what human trafficking really is and how it is making a great impact on the application and imposition of human rights in an international scope.

In Egypt, the problem is serious enough that the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (2010) has called on immediate action by the Egyptian government in the recent past, in the case of one incident alone where two hundred

fifty Eritreans were held hostage by human traffickers. Egypt receives frequent mention in the academic literature as a country where people might be channeled through (Calandruccio, 2005; McCabe and Manian, 2010; US Department of State, 2010; United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, 2011; Catholic Relief Services, 2012; UN.GIFT, 2008; Kelly 2005).

Egypt can thus be used as the basis for analysis of human trafficking that could be compared to other nations around the globe also involved in the industry. Knowing all the different elements that make up the industry could be used to guide its resolution: Sex trade is by far the largest component, but trafficking for labor, organs, domestic work and forced industrial work is also frequently reported (Calandruccio, 2005; McCabe and Manian, 2010; US Department of State, 2010; United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, 2011; Catholic Relief Services, 2012; UN.GIFT, 2008).

Statement of the Problem

The main research question is:

How effective are the Egyptian government policies to combat the human trafficking? In what areas could they be improved?

Investigative questions and break down of the main research question:

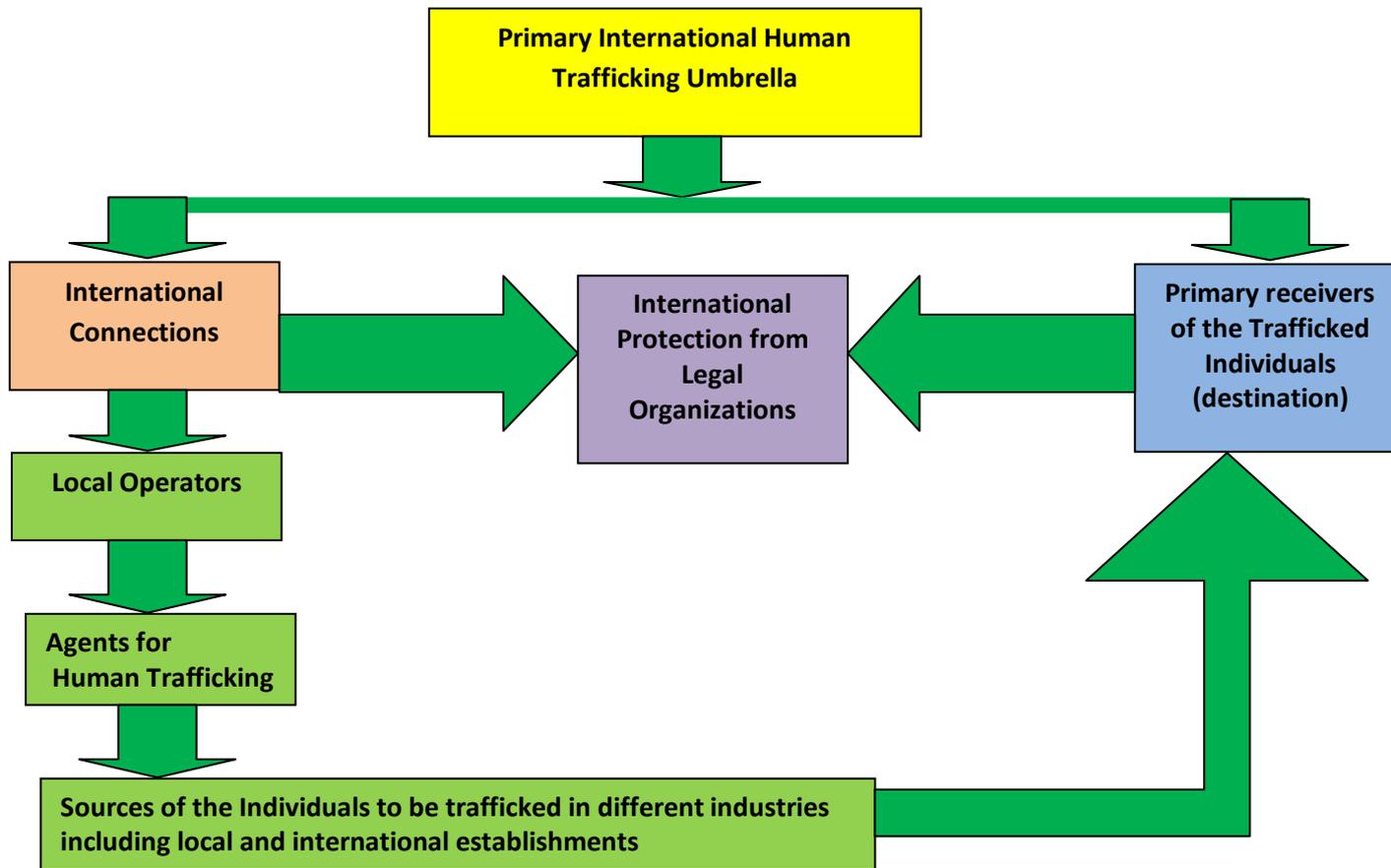
- How do illegal global networks influence human trafficking in Egypt?
- In line with the emergence of human trafficking, what specifically makes up the industry and how did it arise? What supply and demand pressures cause these criminal networks of traffickers to be able to operate profitably?

This thesis is classified into several chapters and each is organized as following; chapter 1 is the introduction, chapter 2 presents the human trafficking problem both globally and locally as well; chapter 3 discusses the methodology; while

chapter 4 is the findings and discussion. In the final chapters, conclusion and recommendations are set forth for consideration.

Figure # 1

Human Trafficking Process Cycle



Source: Mitigation Information Programme

As Figure 1 makes clear, the local operators could choose whether or not to connect with a bigger umbrella of international operators who could choose to ship the individuals being trafficked for other forms of modern forced labor. They can operate at a lower risk rate but be more vulnerable to being attacked by other groups and have fewer people to smuggle, or ally with a larger group but be at risk of being

caught with the whole organization and be forced to share their profits. In Egypt, this picture is an evident system that is used by human traffickers in the area. One reason why the operation is being protected is the fact that in the middle of it all, legal councilors are noted to give protection to the functions of each part of the hierarchy hence giving them full immunity in transferring or utilizing the trafficked individuals for illegal forms of employment (Mitigation Information Programme, 1995). This is the fact that fuels up the growth of the industry (Mitigation Information Programme, 1995). The larger the operation gets, the higher the profit earned, as a result, there is a better chance on the part of the upper umbrellas of operation to pay for the protection they need to be immune from the law; indeed, corruption and human trafficking go hand in hand (UNODC, 2011b). This is one of the many reasons why it is evidently hard to contend with the industry's progress towards expanding further and victimizing more individuals into the system.

Concept & Terminology

Human trafficking as defined for the purpose of this study is a large umbrella that is composed of several crimes. These crimes are forced labor, child labor, forced begging, prostitution, organ harvesting and forced marriages for young girls (summer marriages).

II. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROBLEM GLOBALLY

The United Nations has declared human trafficking as a “crime against humanity” as it violates the basic right of people to live freely and without fear (UNODC, 2012). It is defined as follows “Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receiving of an individual by means of force and coercion so that they may be exploited”. Each year, thousands of men, women and children fall prey to human traffickers both in their own countries and abroad (Aronowitz, 2009). According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, either in the capacity of transit, origin or destination for victims. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Article 3 Paragraph (a) states that at a minimum, “exploitation includes prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, or activities like forced labor, removal of organs and servitude” (UNODC, 2011). Under the terms of the Protocol, any activity related to human trafficking is punishable by international law, including attempts to commit human trafficking, being an accomplice in human trafficking efforts or “organizing and directing others to commit trafficking” (UNODC, 2011).

The United Nations has recently adopted a trafficking protocol, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women & Children. This protocol was introduced in Italy during the year 2000 (The United Nations,

2010). The Protocol promotes international cooperation, but it is not clear if it provides a sufficient framework for that cooperation against human trafficking. While it requires States to “take or strengthen measures” as well as “establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures” in Article 9, the enforcement of this protocol is not especially powerful. This protocol is one of three primary protocols that the United Nations uses to regulate the operations of human trafficking at the international level, alongside the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto and the two Palermo Convention protocols, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (the latter two of which are both part of the broader Palermo convention).

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is specifically defined to create an operation by which the emergence of issues related to human trafficking and the industries related to it could be controlled (Watson, 2006). The Convention includes numerous specific recommendations, such as a report from Palermo “in accordance with resolution 54/129” and requiring the Ad Hoc Committee to complete their draft Protocol. In line with this organized protocol of control is a definition of what human trafficking is and what impact it imposes on the life of those situated in areas most likely being assumed as the primary source of individuals victimized by the industry.

One of the most salient human trafficking issues being addressed by the UNCATOC pertains to efforts in eradicating the demand for human organs (Watson, 2006). The UNCATOC proposes to achieve this by “creating a method in which such organ supplies can be increased legally for all patients” (Watson, 2006, p. 37).

In line with the attention that UN is placing on the developmental occurrence of human trafficking, this review of literature shall provide a more considerable indication on what the aspect of illegal industry is all about and how it could be subjected for resolution (Esveld, 2008; Calandruccio, 2005; Kelly, 2005). Other areas covered in this literature review are the different legal measures that have been established both in Egypt and in the global scene, the various manifestations of human trafficking and other initiatives taken by different international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration and the Human Rights Watch.

Considering the different legal measures that have already been accounted for, this presentation shall also try to clarify the link between the problem and the needed resolution for the issue.

The materials selected for this literature review are from reports of human rights organizations, United Nations reports and scholarly articles and books, drawing from over fifteen sources. Feingold (2010), USAID (2007), UNHCR (2011) and Patt (2010) provide numbers and details on the forced labor trade in general and on the Egyptian trade in specific.

Understanding Human Trafficking

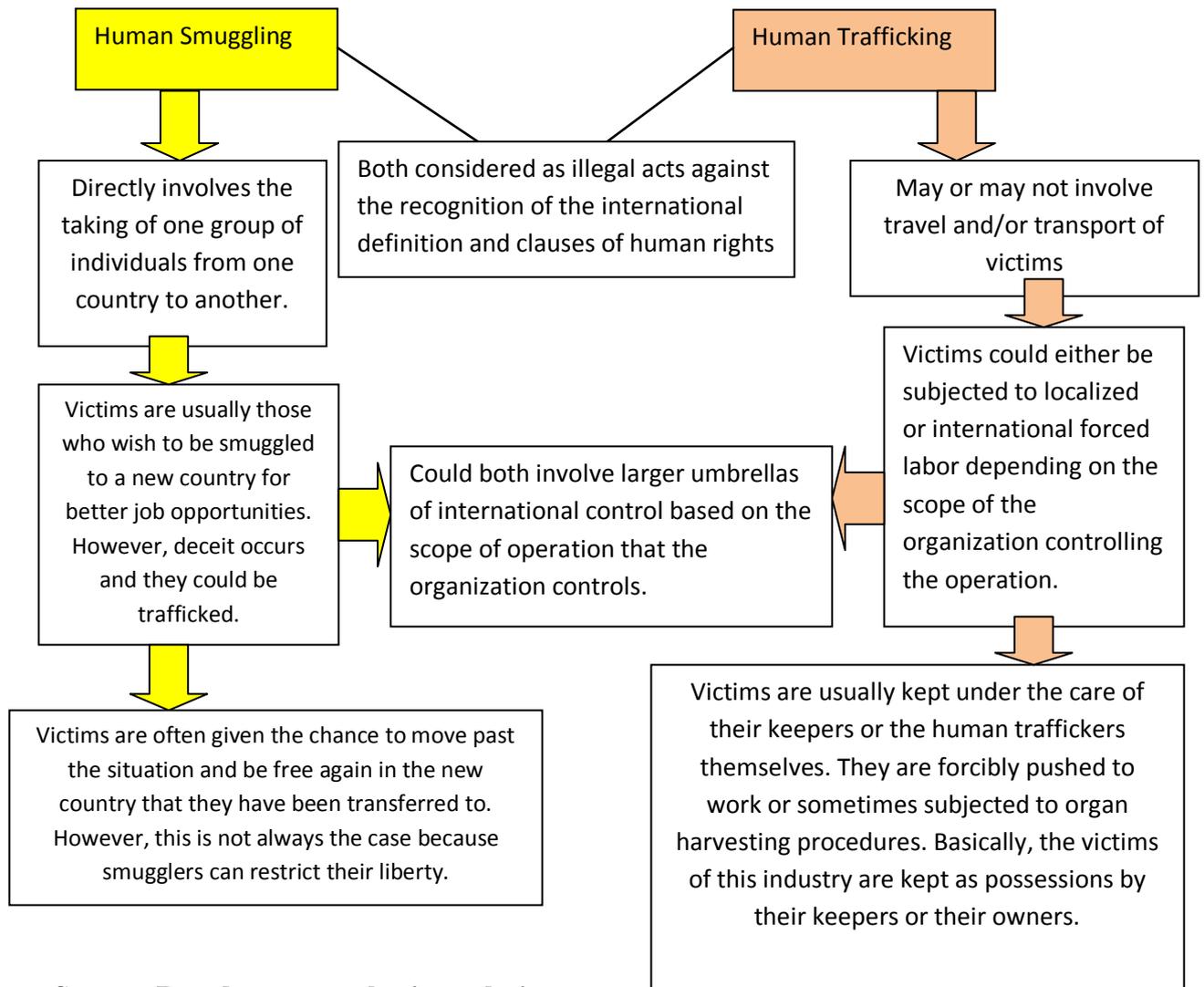
Human trafficking is related to and supports forced labor. There are those who mistakenly define human trafficking to be closely related to human smuggling. Nonetheless, the two constructs have different characteristics. Human smuggling is different from human trafficking in the sense that the former involves people who seek illegal transportation across one or more state borders (Yussouf, 2008, p. 370). More often than not, the humans being transported in human smuggling are

accomplices to the crime. In contrast, as defined earlier, human trafficking has the elements of coercion or deception so that the people may be transported to various destinations so that they could be deployed for forced labor (UNODC, 2011). Human smuggling, also known as alien smuggling, usually involves voluntary smuggling in violation of immigration laws; human trafficking is at least partially involuntary. One source for involuntary human trafficking specifically is forced servitude as a term of payment for the otherwise un-payable loans or debts to other people. Due to that debt, borrowers are forced to offer themselves as sacrifice in place of the value that they have borrowed which they cannot repay. From here on, the impact of human trafficking and the path of development it took could be analyzed. While human trafficking and forced labor have been a part of human history, it is now illegal and against the moral codes of most societies; thus, trafficking has to be understood as amoral profiteering, and those who engage in it as criminals if not sociopaths.

The diagram below provides more detailed information on the supply side of human trafficking, what human smuggling is and how much different it is from human trafficking.

Figure # 2

Understanding Human Smuggling vs. Human Trafficking



Source: Based on researcher's analysis

Human smuggling is also part of the problem in Egypt (Ribando, 2007, 10; Calandruccio, 2005; Esveld, 2008), and in fact the same networks often engage in human smuggling and human trafficking.

Observe in figure 3 below how these two particular elements of consideration actually provide a relative presentation on how human trafficking becomes a fully functional business that is sourced out from the natural human desire of donation.

Figure # 3 Sex Trafficking Illustration



Source: Polaris Project (2011).

http://act.polarisproject.org/o/5417/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=1160

644.

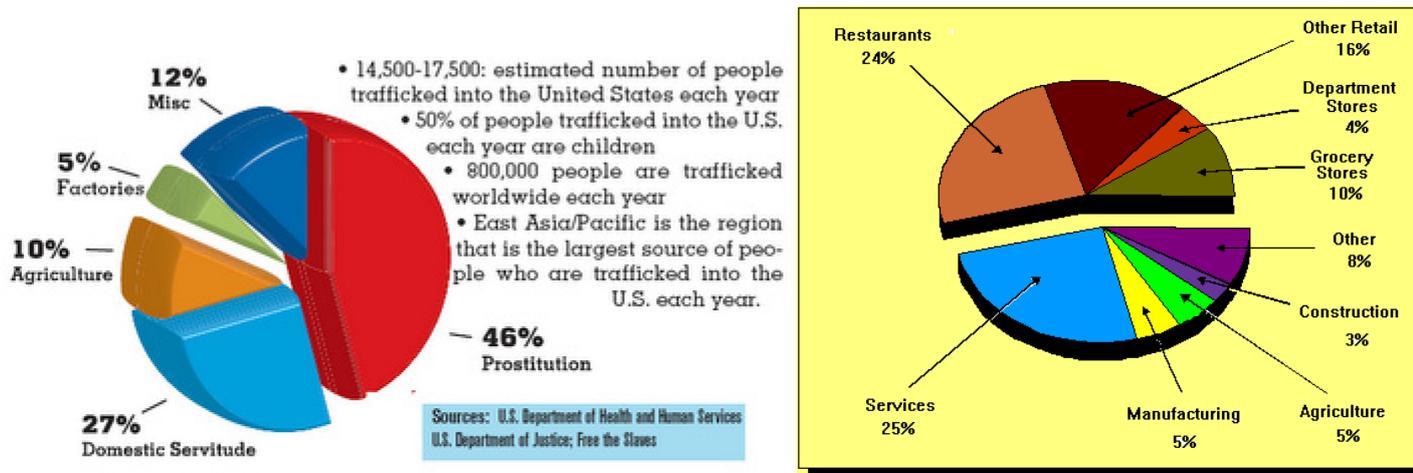
As observed from the diagram presented above, it is essential to know that human trafficking is a more defined form of modern forced labor: For example, current traffickers, since forced labor is illegal, have to deal with getting rid of the victims after they are done, and may dump them in an abandoned area. The human trafficking experience of Egypt is a more defined aspect of modern forced labor. Since the victims are kept as possessions, the individuals that are subjected into this situation have limited chances of moving away from this captivity and changing their

lives, although some succeed in doing so. There are currently three particular forms of work positions or servitude the victims of human trafficking become involved in. The three aspects of servitude include that of bonded labor (usually localized); forced labor (could be localized or an international operation); and sex labor (which is currently considered to be operating internationally) (Watson, 2006; USAID, 2007). The differences of these particular types include the insistence of “meaning” upon the servitude that the victims are forced to provide.

For bonded labor, victims are often forced to work in accordance with the need of paying of an amount that has been borrowed. This often comes in the form of family debt, the cost of being smuggled across the border (in the case of refugees conned into believing that they will be helped to a safe place) or other cases which involve the need to provide non-monetary service to compensate for a monetary amount that has been lost in the past (Ryf, 2002). Victims are told that they need to work off the debt, whether it is by giving up their organs, working in sex forced labor, etc. The other type which is noted as forced labor usually involves both men and women who are forced to work in mediocre and inhumane conditions. Most of those who are victimized by this situation include individuals who have been recruited by promising them a better life other than what they already have. Sex trafficking is forced or deceitful transfer the subjection of the victims into the industry of international or local prostitution. The scope of this operation depends on the connections that the primary organization serves within and outside the country (Feingold, 2010). These forms of branched out industries continue to cover the large course of development that human trafficking takes at present. The same picture is present in Egypt especially in recognition of the current state of the industry within

the said country (International Organization for Migration, 2011; US Department of State, 2010).

Most of the victims are then subjected to either forced labor or prostitution depending on the requirements released by the larger umbrella of operators in the international scope. Compare the diagrams below as they present the destination works of those who have been victimized by the industry:



Source: U.S Department of Health and Human Services

U.S Department of Justice; Free the Slaves

These diagrams from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services analyze the source needs of the United States, which is one of the final destinations for people smuggled through Egypt (Kelly, 2005; Calandrucchio, 2005; United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, 2011; Esveld, 2008; Ribando, 2007, 10; USAID, 2011). Notably, the graph on the right side shows an exact distribution of human resources taken from human trafficking operations as they are released in their destinations to work but still under the conditions of their traffickers (Mitigation Information Programme, 1995). It could not be denied that as one nation becomes a

transport center for such an operation, there is a great chance that it is also a stop-over or a destination for the individuals being trafficked. Small local operators have also been considered to have connections with larger operators of human trafficking in the country. It is important to know how to considerably manage the current situation of those who are being targeted by the traffickers as the most vulnerable members of the society.

Human Trafficking Problem in Egypt

Egypt had 9.7% unemployment in 2010 (United Nations, 2004). Notably, it has also been reported that at least 4.5% of the working population are underemployed (US Department of State, 2010). This kind of poverty makes the majority of people and not all so as not to generalize, desperate enough to either participate in human trafficking or become victimized by human traffickers who might sell them into forced labor or temporary servitude for debt.

Even Egypt's relative poverty and inequality by the standard of the region has created an incentive for trafficking. The 9.7% of individuals who are not able to get the best or at least the better side of life in the country are the targeted victims of human trafficking and are vulnerable (US Department of State, 2011). Individuals who live poor lives in Egypt are at a higher risk of being victimized by human traffickers (Yussouf, 2008). Moreover, despite the fact that there are many people who cannot find work, there are businesses that are sufficiently unscrupulous as to prefer to that meet their need by purchasing forced labor.

It has been recognized by the UNODC (2009) that an efficient accomplishment of eliminating and contesting the trafficking of human beings, mostly, women and children, calls for a wide-ranging international move towards

identifying the countries of origin, transit, and destination in the process. It states that traffickers should be punished because they have exploited the international human rights of the victims. It believes that the country of transit should expand or reinforce its national capacities for “the identification, return, risk assessment and reintegration of victims of trafficking, with special consideration to the best interest of the child, and establish cooperation between countries of destination transit and origin.”

Egypt is considered as a “source, transit, and destination country for women and children” that are eventually used for forced labor and sex trafficking (UNHCR, 2012). The UNHCR believes that local Egyptian gangs are involved in these activities (UNHCR, 2012). Egyptian children are oftentimes recruited so that they could be used as domestic helpers or in agricultural labor. Children helped by the UNHCR have related that they are forced into labor, are locked up, and are not paid their wages, subjected to threats as well as physical or sexual abuse. The UNHCR (2012) also disclosed that there are “wealthy men from the Gulf” who travel to Egypt so that they could enter into temporary or “summer marriages” with Egyptian women who are victims of human trafficking. It is not uncommon for these women to be below age 18. Oftentimes, these arrangements are facilitated by the parents of the girl and by marriage brokers who make substantial money from the transactions. Based on a survey conducted by the United Nations in Egypt, most of the men who come to Egypt to contract for temporary marriages are from the countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UNHCR, 2012). As a result, children who fall prey to such transactions end up being sex forced labor and are used for forced labor by their “husbands” (UNHCR, 2012). The trafficking in Egypt is propagated by comprehensive human trafficking networks that operate across a number of borders, especially at the Sinai border (HWR, 2010). Moreover, human trafficking occurs

within the borders of the country, that is, domestic trafficking, as well as the country remains a transit point for human trafficking, that is, it remains involved with international trafficking (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2011). Naturally, the term “domestic trafficking” refers to trafficking within a country’s borders and “international trafficking” refers to the human trafficking across borders. UNODC (2012) suggests that unlike international trafficking, “domestic legislation does not need to follow the language of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol precisely, but should be adapted in accordance with domestic legal systems to give effect to the concepts contained in the Protocol.”

True, Egypt may claim to be the transport area only and not the primary source of the individuals being trafficked, nevertheless, it is essential that the Egyptian government try to give attention to how they are able to protect their reputation especially in line with the contribution that they are making in the growth of the industry of human trafficking around the globe.

Meanwhile, women and men from different parts of Asia are sometimes forced into labor in Egypt. Based on reports by the United Nations, Egypt has a large population of foreign domestic workers coming from “Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and possibly Sri Lanka. These men and women come to Egypt in the hopes of gaining employment but instead, they are forced into labor with no time off, and are subjected to sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Just like child victims of human trafficking in Egypt, there have been reports that some of these people are also locked up in their employers’ residences and are not paid their proper wages (Whitaker, 2011). Egypt employers are able to perpetrate these because many of these domestic workers do not have appropriate documentation of their stay in the country.

Former Egyptian First Lady Suzanne Mubarak acknowledged that Egypt is, indeed, a source of trafficked people as well as a destination point (Meehan, n.d.). Ms. Mubarak initiated a campaign called “End Human Trafficking now” in order to help address the problem (Meehan, n.d.). However, the issue persists because the Egyptian government is not compliant “with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking” (UNHCR, 2012). Nevertheless, the UNHCR has reported that the government is endeavoring to address these problems through policymaking, starting with the prosecution and punishment of people who facilitate the temporary marriages. The Egyptian government is also currently collaborating with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the primary intergovernmental organization in the domain of migration (IOM, 2011).

Egyptian authorities are not able to apprehend human traffickers and rescue victims that are subjected to abuse and sometimes held for ransom in isolated places such as Sinai desert (HRW, 2010). The main problem with the enforcement of trafficking laws in Egypt has its roots in the political unrest that took place in 2011. Due to the lack of will or ability of agencies to enforce laws, the Egyptian government is not able to provide complete law enforcement as well as prosecution information regarding its anti-human trafficking endeavors. For the meantime, the Egyptian government, in collaboration with the IOM, has established shelters for victims who are rescued from the hands of the traffickers. Through the assistance of the IOM, the Egyptian government has recently developed and published a “comprehensive action plan to address all aspects of trafficking” (UNHCR, 2012). One thing that the Egyptian government is sadly inadequate about is in seeking to identify victims of trafficking “among vulnerable groups or complete a referral mechanism to facilitate treatment for victims.” (UNHCR, 2012). In addition to this, it seems that Egyptian

government has no mechanisms in addressing child forced labor for the purpose of domestic servitude.

In light of these shortcomings, the IOM has been undertaking a series of training sessions for Egyptian law enforcement units since 2008 so that trafficking may be addressed and traffickers are prosecuted (IOM, 2011). The IOM also created a fully-funded project entitled “Supporting the Government of Egypt’s Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking by Enhancing Key Investigation and Prosecution Capacities” (IOM, 2011). It is through this project that training of police officers is being undertaken by the IOM, with this training encompassing peacekeeping officers, new police cadets at the Police Academy, diplomats and even non-governmental organizations.

Although officials have told journalists and academics that they have no connection to the main bulk of the human trade and that they are simply serving as a hot spot of transport (that there is no “sale of persons” in Egypt), the reports coming from several social organizations say otherwise (Patt, 2010; Whitaker, 2010; USAID, 2007). Notably, there are primary causes of failure of the law at enforcement and due to government corruption that shall be pointed out in this research as it tries to identify the elements that makes Egypt a hotspot for trafficking including organ trafficking. New developments on how the government prefers to face the matter shall also be presented and examined for efficiency.

It is not the case, by and large, that it is Egyptians themselves who are being kidnapped and trafficked, though no country is completely immune to having its citizens kidnapped. Rather, the country is on trafficking watch lists because its enforcement is quite weak and because it is a transit point where traffickers and

buyers meet (McCabe and Manian, 2010, 96-97;Esveld, 2008). However, Egypt's failures still facilitate this problem: It is possible for people to be smuggled through and stored in Egypt because of enforcement failure. It is thus defined as a Tier 2 country, a "source, transit and destination country for women and children who are subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labor and forced prostitution. Some of Egypt's estimated two hundred thousand to one million street children – both boys and girls – are exploited in prostitution and forced begging. Local gangs are, at times, involved in this exploitation" (US Department of State, 2010). While it is not accurate to say that forced labor is woven into the fabric in Egypt or even a large-scale phenomenon, forced labor is involved in numerous aspects of Egyptian economic and social life, from child sex tourism to agricultural work to domestic work in households (United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, 2011; US Department of State, 2010).

There is another element of the Egyptian trafficking that deserves commentary (US Department of State, 2010, 137). Egyptians often capture recent immigrants from Asian and African countries such as Indonesia, Eritrea and Sudan, turning them into domestic forced labor (US Department of State, 2010).The term "forced labor" may seem to be strong, but as the Department of State makes clear, "Men and women from South and Southeast Asia may be subjected to forced labor in Egypt...Some conditions they face include no time off; sexual, physical, and emotional abuse; withholding of wages; and restrictions of movement. Employers may use the domestic workers' illegal status and lack of employment contracts as a coercive tool" (US Department of State, 2010). Further, forced prostitution and sex forced labor has been reported by numerous scholars (UNODC, 2011b). Indeed, it is immigrants who are the most vulnerable to being taken advantage of. This happens with refugees on the

Egyptian borders, especially with Eritrea. Trafficking emerges as a parasitic result of smuggling. Part of the solution to any trafficking problem is to control the amount of human smuggling and illegal border crossings, and to get a handle on refugee crises. As long as there are refugees or a substantial immigration problem across a border, there will be victims (UN GIFT, 2008).

The previous government failed almost completely to deal with human trafficking: Aside from a few laws near the end of the regime, the official status of Egypt as a tier 2 nation shows widespread failure (United Nations High Commission on Refugees, 2011). This will be further elaborated upon the failure of the government in both sections of: law and legalities as well as law deficiencies.

It remains to be seen how the new Egyptian government will respond to human trafficking, especially given the present social unrest; however, there is fear that human trafficking, especially amongst the Bedouins, will continue given the country's problem with stability and government credibility in the new remain to be seen post-Mubarak period (Lindsey, 2012; United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, 2011). In one event, one Muslim woman from Uzbekistan was being told that she was not going to be raped or sold into prostitution because of her faith (Beeks and Amir, 2006, 214). The Bedouins are particularly crucial in the human trafficking in Egypt: They are often the people who fraudulently claim to help refugees and prospective immigrants. Smugglers like the Bedouin know "desert routes and methods of avoiding detection" and "routinely rape and abuse victims during journeys that can take two months to complete", according to victim and US Department of State reports (Esveld, 2008).

True, the combat against the occurrence of human trafficking affects the whole world. And it is similarly true that it is difficult to talk about Egyptian trafficking out

of the context of the global human trafficking market, especially since Egyptians being captured and sold to Egyptians is very rare. . The Egyptian government is taking so as to make sure that the situation is controlled properly. The current condition of the Egyptian community and its connection with the growing number of victims being transported from one place to another through human trafficking and later on being subjected to any of the human trafficking crimes is expected to reflect the situation of other countries. Countries that are key chains in the human trafficking market include Iran, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and North Korea (UNODC, 2011b). Measuring the actual number of people who are being trafficked is virtually impossible given the underground nature of the industry (Feingold, 2010). Notably, it could be understood that this problem follows from the lack of accurate data, making it more difficult to find solutions and to establish procedures of saving the lives of the victim. In Egypt, it is difficult to measure the problem precisely because of the industry's underground nature. This is the reason why it is deemed by the United Nations that creating a more refined aspect of reporting the victimization culture that the industry takes should take a center stage in defining the solution for the issue in the country.

Nevertheless, the rate of profit that the industry generates has been strongly researched upon by the International Labor Organization, or ILO. While profits in Egypt are uncertain, the international profits from human trafficking are estimated into the tens of billions (Belser, 2005). Egypt continues to claim that they are only a transport host and not the source of such victims (Chauzy, 2001). Nonetheless, reports from UN specifically note that at least 23% of the victims that have been rescued have been recovered within the regions in Sinai and other smaller regions in Egypt (United Nations, 2004). Most of the results of the studies conducted indicates that at most, the

ones trafficked from Egypt are dedicated to either domestic service or sex trafficking. The victims profiles ranges from being homeless individuals, displaced families, runaway teenage girls and boys, refugees who were promised a better life in the other countries as well as drug addicts who believe that they have no choice but to bind themselves into their vice and sell themselves in exchange of the money they need for their addiction (Ryf, 2002).

The exploitation of the weaknesses and the vulnerabilities of the victims become the primary course that the “madams” or the “pimps” of the trafficked individuals keep in constant attention (Chauzy, 2001). The control they have on the victims is strong especially that the said victims do not have so much of a choice in consideration with how they ought to live their lives. Hoping that there would somehow be a better day for them, these victims are specifically tied to their handlers and are forced to do as they are told even when they are subjected to mediocre living conditions. With larger organizations providing protections for local operators, it can be very difficult to track down perpetrators or encourage victims to speak out, so afraid are they of reprisal. This is in addition to corruption in local governments that often acts to protect the traffickers (Belser, 2005).

Laws and Legalities

An extract of the law:

Arab Republic of Egypt

The People’s Assembly

**Law No. (64) of 2010 regarding
Combating Human Trafficking**

In the name of The People

The President of the Republic

The People’s Assembly decided the law, the text of which follows:

Chapter One

Definitions

Article (1):

In applying the provisions of this law, the following phrases and words shall have the meanings indicated alongside:

- 1) An organized criminal group: a group composed in accordance with a certain structure of at least three or more persons, acting continuously or for a period of time with the aim of committing one or more specified crimes, including crimes of human trafficking; on its own or with others in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a material or moral benefit.
- 2) A crime of a transnational nature: any crime committed in more than one State, committed in one State with its preparation, planning, direction, supervision or funding in another State or through another State; committed in one State by an organized criminal group engaged in criminal activities in more than one State, or committed in one State with effects in another State.
- 3) The victim: a natural person who suffered any material or moral harm, in particular bodily, psychological or mental harm; or economic loss if the harm or loss was caused directly by one of the crimes stipulated in this law.

Article (2):

A person who commits the crime of human trafficking shall be considered one who deals in any manner in a natural person, including: the sale, offer for sale, purchase, or promise thereof; or the use, transport, delivery, harboring, reception, or receipt, whether within the country or across its national borders; if this occurred through the use of force, violence, or threat thereof; or through abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or exploitation of a position of vulnerability or need; or through a promise to give or receive payments or benefits in exchange for obtaining the consent of a person to traffic another having control over him; or if the purpose of the transaction was exploitation in any of its forms, 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.

Article (3):

The consent of the victim to exploitation in any of the forms of human trafficking shall be irrelevant as long as any of the means stipulated in Article (2) of this law have been used. To establish trafficking in a child or in the incapacitated, use of any of the means referred to is not required, and in all cases his consent or the consent of the person responsible for him or his guardian shall be irrelevant.

Chapter Two

Crimes and Punishments

Article (4):

Without prejudice to any harsher penalty prescribed in another law, the crimes stipulated in the following articles shall be subject to the penalties prescribed thereto.

Article (5):

Aggravated imprisonment and a fine not less than 50,000 pounds and not to exceed 200,000 pounds or a fine equal to the value of the benefit gained, whichever is greater, shall be imposed on anyone who committed the crime of human trafficking.

Article (6):

Life imprisonment and a fine not less than 100,000 pounds and not to exceed 500,000 pounds shall be imposed on anyone who committed the crime of human trafficking in the following cases:

If the perpetrator established, organized, or

1. managed an organized criminal group for the purposes of human trafficking, if he was a leader thereof, if he was one of its members or belonged thereto, or if the crime was of a transnational nature; If the act was committed by way of threats of death, serious harm or physical or psychological torture; or if the act was committed by a person carrying a weapon;

3. If the perpetrator was the spouse, one of the ascendants or descendants, or custodian or guardian of the victim, or was responsible for the supervision or care or had authority over the victim;

4. If the perpetrator was a public official or was assigned to carry out a public service and committed the crime by exploiting the office or public service;

5. If the crime resulted in the death of the victim or caused him to suffer a permanent disability or an incurable disease;

6. If the victim was a child, was incapacitated or was a person with disabilities;

7. If the crime was committed by an organized criminal group.

Article (7):

Imprisonment shall be imposed on anyone who uses force, threats, or offers gifts or benefits of any kind or a promise thereof to induce another to provide false testimony, to conceal a matter, or to provide untrue statements or information in any stages of evidence collection, investigation, or trial in procedures related to the commission of any of the crimes stipulated in this law.

Article (8):

Imprisonment shall be imposed on anyone who knowingly conceals one of the perpetrators, objects, or funds derived from any of the crimes stipulated in this law or dealt therein or concealed any traces of the crime or its instrumentalities. The court may exempt from penalty a person who concealed the perpetrators if he was the spouse, one of the ascendants or descendants.

Article (9):

Imprisonment shall be imposed on anyone who disclosed or revealed the identity of a victim or witness, endangering him; or caused him to suffer harm, facilitated the perpetrator's contact with him, or provided him with inaccurate information regarding his legal rights, with the intent to harm him or to violate his physical, psychological or mental well-being.

Article (10) :

Imprisonment shall be imposed on anyone who induces another by any means to commit a crime referenced to in the aforementioned articles, irrespective of whether the inducement had an effect.

Article (11) :

The person responsible for the actual management of a juristic person shall be punished if any of the crimes stipulated in this law was committed by one of the employees of the juristic person in his name and for his benefit with the same penalties specified for the committed crime if it is proven that he had knowledge of the crime or if the crime occurred due to breach of the duties of his job.

A juristic person shall be jointly liable for fulfilling the financial penalties and damages prescribed in the judgment; if the crime was committed by one of the employees in his name and for his benefit, the court shall order in its decision of conviction the publication of the decision at the expense of the juristic person in two widely circulated daily newspapers and may order a cessation of the activity of the juristic person for a period not to exceed one year.

Article (12) :

Imprisonment shall be imposed for a period not less than six months and a fine not less than 10,000 pounds and not to exceed 20,000 pounds or one of these two penalties on anyone who had knowledge of the commission of one of the crimes stipulated in this law or of an attempt to commit such a crime and did not notify the competent authority; if the perpetrator was a public official and the crime occurred in breach of the duties of his job, the maximum imprisonment shall be five years.

The court may exempt from punishment a person who fails to make a notification if the person was a spouse of the perpetrator, one of his ascendants or descendants, or one of his brothers or sisters.

Article (13)

Without prejudice to the rights of a bona fide third party, in all cases, confiscation of funds, possessions, means of transport, or tools derived from any of the crimes stipulated in this law or used in its commission shall be ordered.

Article (14):

The crimes stipulated in this law shall be considered principal crimes provided for in Article (2) of the Anti-Money Laundering Act No. 80 of 2008, which also applies to the money laundering derived there from.

The provisions of Article 208 bis(a), 208 bis(b), and 208bis(c) of the Code of Criminal Procedures shall also apply to these crimes.

Article (15):

If one of the perpetrators takes the initiative to notify any of the competent authorities about the crime and its perpetrators before their knowledge thereof, the court shall exempt him from penalty if his notification causes the apprehension of the other perpetrators and the seizure of funds derived from this crime.

The court may exempt him from the principal penalty if the notification occurred after the authorities knew about the crime and led to the disclosure of the other perpetrators, their apprehension, and the seizure of the funds derived there from.

The previous two paragraphs shall not apply if the result of the crime was the death of the victim or his suffering an incurable disease or permanent disability.

Chapter Three

Scope of the Territorial Application of the Law

Article (16) :

Subject to the provision of Article (4) of the Penal Code, the provisions of this law shall apply to non-Egyptians who commit the crime of human trafficking stipulated in Articles 5 and 6 of this law outside of the Arab Republic of Egypt, as long as the act is punishable in the State in which it occurred, under any legal description, in the following cases:

- 1) If the crime was committed on board any air, land, or water means of transportation that was registered in the Arab Republic of Egypt or under its flag;
- 2) If one or more of the victims was Egyptian;
- 3) If the preparation for the crime or its planning, direction, supervision, or financing occurred in the Arab Republic of Egypt;

- 4) If the crime was committed by an organized criminal group engaged in criminal activities in more than one State, including the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- 5) If the crime caused harm to any citizen or resident, to the security, or to any of the interests of the Arab Republic of Egypt within the country or abroad;
- 6) If the one who committed the crime in the Arab Republic of Egypt was found after the crime was committed and was not extradited.

Article (17):

In the cases provided for in the previous Article, jurisdiction shall be extended to the competent Egyptian authorities through evidence collection, investigation and trial.

Chapter Four

International Judicial Cooperation

Article (18):

The Egyptian judicial authorities and police shall cooperate with respective foreign authorities to combat and prosecute crimes of human trafficking, including: exchange of information, conducting investigations, judicial assistance and oratory, extradition of perpetrators and objects, asset recovery, transfer of sentenced persons, and other forms of judicial and police cooperation, all under the rules decided by bilateral and multilateral agreements in force in the Arab Republic of Egypt or in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

Article (19):

The Egyptian and foreign judicial authorities may request the necessary legal procedures for the tracking, seizure, or freezing of funds that are the subject of the crimes of trafficking or their revenues and retain them without prejudice to the rights of bona fide third parties.

Article (20):

The competent Egyptian judicial authorities may order the execution of the final criminal judgments issued by the competent foreign judicial authorities, including seizure, freezing, confiscation, or recovery of funds derived from the crimes of human trafficking and their revenues in accordance with the rules and procedures embodied in bilateral and multilateral agreements in force in the Arab Republic of Egypt or in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

Chapter Five

Protection of Victims

Article (21):

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.

Article (22):

The State shall guarantee the protection of the victim and shall work to create the appropriate conditions for his assistance, health, psychological, educational and social care; and rehabilitation and reintegration into the society, within the framework of liberty and human dignity, as well as his return to his homeland in an expeditious and safe manner, if he was a foreigner or a non-permanent resident in the State, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by a decision of the Counsel of Ministers.

Article (23):

In all stages of evidence collection, investigation or trial of the crimes of human trafficking, efforts shall be made to identify the victim, to classify him, to determine his identity, nationality, and age to ensure that he is far removed from his perpetrators. In addition, the following rights of the victim shall be guaranteed:

- a) The right to physical, psychological and mental safety;
- b) The right to protect his inviolability and identity;
- c) The right to inform him of relevant administrative, legal and judicial procedures and access to information related thereto;
- d) The right to be heard and to have his views and interests considered during all stages of criminal proceeding without prejudice to the rights of the defense;
- e) The right to legal assistance, in particular the right to counsel in the investigation and trial stages; if he has not chosen a lawyer, the public prosecutor or the court, whichever the case, may assign him a lawyer in accordance with the rules prescribed in the Criminal Procedures Code regarding assigning a lawyer to the accused;
- f) In all cases, the competent court shall take measures to ensure that protection is provided to the victims and witnesses to avoid any influence upon them and shall take whatever measures required to conceal their identity, all without prejudice to the rights of the defense and the requirements of the principle of confrontation between adversaries.

Article (24):

The State shall provide appropriate premises to host the victims of the crimes of human trafficking, which shall be separate from those of the perpetrators and shall allow them to receive their families and lawyers, as well as representatives of the competent authorities, all without prejudice to the various safeguards set forth in this regard in the Child Law or any other law.

Article (25):

The Foreign Ministry, through its diplomatic and consular missions abroad, shall provide all possible assistance to Egyptian victims in crimes of human trafficking in coordination with the competent authorities in the host States, in particular by returning them to the Arab Republic of Egypt in an expeditious and safe manner. The Foreign Ministry shall also coordinate with the relevant authorities in other countries to facilitate the safe and expeditious return of foreign victims to their countries of origin.

Article (26):

The competent authorities shall provide care, education, training, and rehabilitation programs to the Egyptian victims, whether through governmental or non-governmental institutions.

Article (27):

A fund shall be established to assist victims of human trafficking, which shall have a public juristic personality under the Prime Minister to provide financial assistance to the victims who have suffered harm resulting from any of the crimes stipulated in this law.

A decision by the President of the Republic shall regulate this fund and determine its jurisdiction, resources and the sources of its funding.

The proceeds of the fines sentenced for the crimes stipulated in this law, as well as the properties, objects, and means of transportation forfeited shall be allocated directly to the fund, which may also accept contributions, grants, and donations from national and foreign entities.

Chapter Six

Concluding Provisions

Article (28):

A National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking shall be established under the Prime Minister and shall have jurisdiction to coordinate at the national level among policies, plans, and programs set forth to combat human trafficking to protect the victims and provide them with services and to protect the witnesses.

A decision by the Prime Minister shall be issued to regulate this Committee and determine its other jurisdictions and its structure.

Article (29):

The Prime Minister shall issue an executive regulation to this law one month from the date of its publication.

Article (30):

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force the day following the date of its publication. This law shall have the seal of the State and shall apply as one of its laws.

To protect the rights of potential victims, the Egyptian parliament approved a law, Article 23 (2010) dealing with the victims mainly, on the aspect of combating the effects of human trafficking. . In Cairo, Article 23 of the 30 articles of the Draft Law has been approved as it stated that the victims of human trafficking who are found are to be taken care of hence given the chance to be rehabilitated under the care of the government. This is an important decision and step forward, but is insufficient and does not deal with the causes of trafficking such as the refugee crisis and corruption. If the victims happen to be foreigners, the individual/s ought to be sent home immediately to their families with every expense paid by the government. True, this law does provide the victims with rights. However, its clauses do not clearly provide a picture on how the cessation of the industry is being planned to be controlled by the government (UNODC, 2011b). For example, laws need to be enacted with enforcement and punishments for corrupt government officials (UNODC, 2011b). In line with this, the United Nations then pointed out that the emergence of campaign procedures against human trafficking should be further empowered by the government of Egypt. Social awareness is the primary target of UN in enforcing possible procedures that could provide the people with the knowledge that they need to be able to protect themselves from the ensnaring impact of human traffickers in their lives.

As worldwide as the operation of human trafficking is, Egypt and the other third world nations noted to have a strong involvement in the industry are

considered to have weak laws and regulations that help implement their administrative operations directed against the operators of human trafficking organizations. Despite the best efforts of administrators, the present Egyptian enforcement systems have insufficient mandates and penalties, even after 64/2010's passage. The small but remarkable percentage of Egypt's overall population that remains vulnerable in the eyes of human traffickers ought to be protected.

The government of Egypt, both in the Mubarak era and afterwards, created laws that expanded the prosecution of human traffickers and clamped down on a culture of forced marriages (US Department of State, 2010; USAID, 2007; USAID, 2011). These laws include the Anti-Trafficking Law 64/2010 and the December 2010 National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking (International Organization for Migration, 2011). These laws have shown a good faith effort to try to resolve Egypt's status as a potential violator of international laws. Primarily, Anti-Trafficking law 64/2010 states that the government will imprison those criminals convicted of crimes related to human trafficking. Furthermore, the law also elaborates the minimum age of marriage for girls from 16 to 18 as initiative to confront seasonal marriage whereas underage girls become vulnerable to sexual and economic exploitation due to their deteriorated circumstances. The primary intention of these laws is raise awareness of human trafficking.

In addition, the Egyptian government has allowed NGO and foreign assistance such as Phase II of the Regional Programme for Identification and Provision of Assistance to Iraqi Victims of Trafficking and Vulnerable Migrants in the Middle East, a United States Department of State-funded program and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) G/TIP-funded project, "Supporting the Government of Egypt's Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking by Enhancing Key

Investigation and Prosecution Capabilities” which was carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior, the Office of the General Prosecutor and the Ministry of Justice (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2011a; 2011b).

III. Methodology

Primary Process & Instrumentation

The methodology used in this paper is a mixed-method analysis, examining qualitative data. The approach used is an ethnographic approach, a case study of the Egyptian human trafficking market using interviews; this allows qualitative analysis. The ultimate intention is to provide policy suggestions so as to reduce human trafficking in Egypt. The case study approach will have the advantage of focusing on the needs in Egypt in specific but may not be as generalizable. These policy suggestions will be targeted at Egyptian policy-makers and foreign organizations like the United Nations. Five human trafficking experts in Egypt with the UN and other agencies were e-mailed a survey. The five interviewed experts were reached through referrals or the commonly known snow-balling technique. The request was made to a specific expert after calls were made to the United Nations offices regarding human trafficking. The collaborative arrangement was personal: As officials, they were willing to speak on the record; however, for the purposes of the study, confidentiality was maintained. The United Nations contact provided a global perspective. Although the individual expert specifically works in Egypt and has extensive expertise in the region. The United Nations official was able to provide a different, more global perspective on events, specifically a comparative one. The Egyptian experts on the human trafficking problem may have better access to information on Egypt; however it is difficult to assess human trafficking in Egypt. The responses form the basis for the discussion. Interior Ministry contacts were considered, but many of them refused to speak even under condition of anonymity, as they were afraid of compromising existing cases.

Finally, using local classified services and online forums, four women were found and interviewed. Their information was given under condition of strict confidentiality. In addition, five men and two women responded to the advertisements

the research has placed on the online forums and portals but chose not to participate. It is possible that these victims were not telling the truth or exaggerating, but their stories seemed credible and, in any instance, their contribution to the research was valuable as an on-the-ground perspective. In addition, one woman who responded to the researcher's question on the forum said that she was forced to be a domestic worker; she again spoke on a confidential basis although her victimizers were ultimately convicted.

While individual testimonies of victims do testify to the horror of the trade, they do not have the rigor to help legislators craft policies that will actually stop the networks in question. United Nations sources were preferred as they were more likely to have the ability to access criminal networks across borders. Their observers are widespread, and they have a macro-level view of the problem; further, they are very credible and do not have a self-serving agenda, like government sources might. However, sources from a wide spectrum were nonetheless used to complement the interviews.

In addition to the interviews, observations are made of four of the victims to add case studies.

Scope and Limitation

Since the primary methodology does not involve actual experimentation, not all variables can be controlled for and there is a risk of spuriousness. However, given the complex sociological nature of human trafficking and its inherently criminal and unethical nature, it would be highly difficult to conduct an ethical experiment in any instance.

The approach also focuses on the human trafficking conditions in specific, but unfortunately human trafficking in Egypt and in the Arab world more generally emerges from a network of broader policies and social conditions that cannot be addressed here. It is a complicated issue, with varying factors embedded in between; poverty, social inequality, poor law enforcement, low awareness and current political unrest.

The research chosen is of a cross-section, unfortunately, because these networks are by their very nature criminal and underground, there is little direct experience, and victims are often loath to discuss their experiences. Primarily, cross sectional or descriptive research is observational in nature and it is not relational or causal. In the process, the researcher needs to record all the existing information, but they are not manipulating any variables in the event. Basically, it does not determine the cause and effect, but it gives more emphasis on description of characteristics that exist. Thus, the study can only comment to a certain degree and will not be able to discuss individual networks. However, it is this researcher's opinion that the general patterns are sufficiently consistent and evident from the reviewed resources that policy approaches can be crafted with great efficacy. There are only five experts on the topic chosen, which means that there may be some variation in opinion. However, the answers ultimately given were consistent.

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

The Current Situation of Human Trafficking in Egypt

One of experts mentioned that “Egypt may become a very serious hub for trafficking in the near future” confirmed the conclusion of McCabe and Manian (2010), the Trafficking in Persons Report (2010) and other scholars that Egypt is not itself a source country for trafficking (i.e. forced labor are not actually captured in Egypt itself by and large, but rather those that are recent immigrants). Egypt is primarily a transit nation that does not fully comply with international law and thus can serve as a meeting point for traffickers and a kidnapping point for foreigners (Esveld, 2008; USAID, 2007).

The victim interviews as stated by one of the victims statements “it was getting very dangerous to live in the Iraq, we heard bombs blowing up many nights of the week” confirmed what established research indicates about the pattern of human trafficking; another victim stated “I was in a club when I was captured by people etc..”. Those victims by themselves are good citizens but their unfortunate circumstances led them as victims in this ill-reputable industry. From the people we interviewed, one was a domestic who worked here, one was a prostitute who was passing through and one was a laborer, the fourth was sold as a sex forced labor. One was from Africa, one was from the Middle East and one was from Russia. All three attested to only a few others being trafficked along with them. They were all in

socially marginalized conditions in an apparently mob-controlled club or attempting to flee from bad circumstances. All four worked in some context: While they endured abuse, they were not sex forced labor for an individual but were used to make money or provide a non-sexual service for a person, whether it is a pimp, a household or a factory. Indeed, while it was human trafficking, these four stories less resemble forced labor than forced servitude, and there was never a clear arrangement that the participants reported that they would never regain their freedom or were “owned” specifically. None of the victims were Egyptian and they rarely reported Egyptian victims that they knew: Their impressions were that the victims were like them. It is true that they did not meet too many victims outside of their immediate surroundings, meaning that most of them really knew only about their experience and that of fellow victims from their country.

The different elements of power and control become the main key towards the establishment of both labor and sex trafficking, two of the most established industries that are further supported through the occurrence of human trafficking. These patterns of power, abuse and control cow victims into silence even if they are freed. The psychology that binds power and authority or control does provide the operators of human trafficking groups the best kind of satisfaction that continues to feed their ego (Mitigation Information Programme, 1995). Hence, the ones less able to stand up to their control are the ones who are being subjected to the industry as victims of their criminals’ personal desires of being the dominant kind in the society. This is the reason why it is suggested the hierarchy of control that human trafficking takes specifically involves the features shown in Figures 2 & 3.

However, it is crucial to note that, refugee or otherwise, not every person who is smuggled across the border will be trafficked, and many of the people being

trafficked (especially according to this researcher's interviews with four victims) may find themselves in conditions of quasi-voluntary servitude rather than bona fide forced labor

Most human trafficking organizations follow a particular system of hierarchy inherent to their organizational needs. The measurement of the organization's operation depends on whether or not the business serves as a connection between small local operations or if they have a bigger umbrella of international operators.

CASE STUDIES

Organ trafficking has been demonstrated in Egypt (COFS, 2011). The victims in this case study are Sudanese. They are captured at the border, imprisoned or simply have their organs harvested and taken, and are usually left to their own devices. Many may have been killed. However, there are enough survivors to be able to see somewhat into the trafficking underworld.

Basically, the case report came from the preliminary evidence-based, victim centered report by the Coalition of Organ Failure Solutions (COFS). Indeed, COFS was able to accumulate evidences about the organ traffickers that exploited Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt. Thus, the abuses include removal of kidneys by coercion, inducing consent, or outright theft.

The first case study victim was a man who was imprisoned so that he would not report his abduction. Like most of the other victims, he was captured at the border. He was freed during the Revolution in January 2011. While some victims had consented in some sense, this kidnapping and imprisonment reported by this victim indicates that some are simply captured and held until their organs can be extracted and transplanted. He reported tremendous physical and psychological hardship: Even though his organ was actually not taken, thanks to his timely escape, he still was not adequately fed and was mistreated.

Another victim did have an organ taken, a kidney, and given to a buyer from the Persian Gulf. He was also captured at the border. Intriguingly, not only did he know the buyer, he also knew that there were signs of robbery and threats to the buyer as well as to him.

These reports, and others like them, confirm several facts about organ trafficking (COFS, 2011). Like other human trafficking through Egypt, there are

criminal enterprises with enough organization to hold people for some time and manage to do illicit medical interactions operating with relative impunity in Egypt. They are able to hide successfully enough.

These organizations have the force to successfully threaten recipients rich enough to afford the black market rates that are being charged. Organ recipients are rarely Egyptian. Just as Egypt is a tier 2 country for human trafficking in general, it appears that it is an intermediary country for organ trafficking as well. Victims are taken to Egypt, apparently because Egypt is more stable and are more likely to have facilities and qualified doctors, and easy access for foreigners come in order to have a transplant. The scale of this market is not insubstantial. Hundreds of people are smuggled and their organs are attempted to be taken, often successfully. The traffickers rarely protect their investment for very long: They capture people, mistreat them, feed them only enough to retain the organ, and then do very little to take care of the health of the victims after transplant. Thus, the following reports were gathered by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) via interview.

Just as with the international market, it is overwhelmingly kidney transplants. While other organs like corneas, lobes of liver or lung, etc. can be transplanted, the easiest, safest and most in demand is the kidney.

There are some people who consent to a limited extent for these interactions, but many are simply kidnapped and coerced. About half of the organ donors that COFS (2011) reviewed were either coerced or had their organ simply stolen. It is not Egyptians by and large who are being targeted but socially marginal and vulnerable refugees with limited resources and no contacts with Egyptian society. These victims are not just Sudanese but also Eritrean, Jordanian, Ethiopian, Somalia, Iraqi or Syrian. They are thus from neighboring states, most of whom either have political problems

and serious poverty or, as in Syria, a repressive regime encouraging people to flee. Many of the victims, about 42%, are 11-18. This indicates a refugee crisis where children are targeted and abused just as much as adults. Many of these immigrants are highly educated: Only 25% of those surveyed by COFS' case study had no education or only primary education, and 25% were university graduates. Most of the victims stay illegal, but some have applied for asylum, refugee status or other immigration status and some are even technically full refugees or asylum seekers!

Causes of the Trafficking Problem

Based on the case studies above, the testimonies of victims and of workers in the field the problems that cause Egypt's failure to deal with human trafficking are as follows.

First: There is substantial corruption. The corruption doesn't seem to be high-reaching, according to the victim testimonies, the UNODC (2011b) report on corruption, or the expert testimonies. But it doesn't have to be. If a few border guards, police, and local officials look the other way that can be enough to facilitate a healthy trade. The Egyptian government must redouble its efforts to control for corruption within its ranks.

Second: The border has been effectively unguarded. Enforcement has failed almost entirely, thanks to the refugee stream. This means that the Egyptian government must solve its refugee problems and create means for refugees to be processed. If there are clearly marked camps and procedures, it will save extensive money in the long run.

Third: There has been a failure to understand the differences between trafficking groups. Berbers, for example, tend to only take people at the border as part

and parcel of their human smuggling operations: They may make some money off temporary forced servitude or sell individuals, but that is not their goal. The interview with the Russian victim shows that the more complex organ and sex trafficking operations rely on a much more sophisticated network than the Berbers usually operate.

The Law & Deficiency

The law unfortunately doesn't cover an important element which is investigating areas and locations where organ is supplied and the purchase took place. Buyers meet their suppliers at pre-arranged hospitals in which an organ and money are exchanged. These hospitals however do not put much concern on who is the doctor carrying on with this operation; how was the organ received and who delivered it. These all are not taken care of by hospitals as long as it's paid the operation rental fare.

There is a socially huge gap between different societal segments. Poor economic conditions in the country especially during the era of ex-president Mubarak caused unprivileged children and youth to look for ways to quickly earn income to survive on a daily basis which resembles in selling organs or being cheated into donating blood. Those young people are usually uneducated about the consequences of their actions and the pitfall caused by deceitful people. In addition to the above, Egypt is on trafficking watch list because law enforcement is quite weak and because it serves as an intermediary country. Through this, it's very possible for individuals to be smuggled into the country and stay in Egypt because of law deficiency.

V. SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Human trafficking could not be denied as a serious case of defying the clauses of the human rights. Notably, the campaign towards improving the most crucial procedures in handling the issues connected to this situation is currently being considered to be one of the most important concerns of the United Nations at present. Giving attention to hot spots such as Egypt, the worldwide organization for unity and human protection specifically create massive procedure from which they could actually try to better the situation and give the expected victims a better chance of putting up a fight for them. It could not be denied however that the primary key towards fixing the situation is the empowered capability of the national administrators to provide what their people need and shield them from the snares of the human traffickers with a great promise of providing them the better path towards better living. This would only become possible if the administrators intend to apply good governance operations that are guided towards giving more value to the people amidst the emergence of several challenges in life. The operational procedures of good governance could actually provide the people with the idea of making their lives better hence [even though not completely eliminating] lessening the effects of poverty in their lives.

VI. Alternatives:

- ❖ Controlling the money and doing better auditing; improving prosecution and conviction rates and crafting new laws that more strictly regulate human trafficking, both directly and indirectly such as requiring better employment contracts and certification; particularly prosecuting buyers rather than sellers so as to dry up the demand; dealing with the Bedouins to whatever extent possible; controlling the border; and engaging in awareness raising for all people.
- ❖ Many of the victims are refugees or recent immigrants; very few are tourists who speak the language or natives, meaning that education would have to be done at the countries where they originate.
- ❖ Utilizing the media to raise awareness. Many of the victims are picked up by dishonest Bedouins or others who promise them faster passage across the border and safety or residence. However, awareness rising does need to be part of the solution: The Egyptian people need to be made aware so that they can identify victims who are being forced to work and are aware of what practices

may be criminal. These particular elements of consideration ought to be given attention to and be announced freely to the Egyptian society through the contribution of effective media.

- ❖ The laws still need further reform ,but more importantly, existing laws have to be enforced vigorously. Both buyers and sellers need to be targeted consistently, prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and conviction rates increased. It is a sad truth that most buyers of human traffickers are not inveterate criminals: They are often rich people who want cheap household help or farmers or factory owners who have labor shortages. If buyers know that there is a good chance that they will be imprisoned or pay extreme fines, they will be much less likely to purchase human beings.
- ❖ Special attention need to be paid to children and women since they are the least able to protect themselves; women and children are easiest to prey on. Based on the percentage of estimated victims, majority of them were used for sexual exploitation. In this regard, women and children were the majority of estimated victims considering some countries only have legislation criminalizing human trafficking for sexual exploitation in women.
- ❖ Another element of the solution, given Egypt's political and economic difficulties, is reaching out for international aid. America and the West are likely to be willing to aid Egyptians, especially given that the human trafficking problem crosses the borders.
- ❖ The refugee and immigrant crisis on Egypt's borders is a major part of the reason that Egypt is vulnerable to human traffickers in the first place. The large numbers of Eritreans, Ethiopians, Eastern Europeans and Asians seeking asylum, fleeing from political, economic or military crises, or attempting to

find a better life provide traffickers a ready source of victims. The Egyptian government will have to solve this problem anyway in order to address other security concerns, as these immigrants become potential criminals or terrorists and are an obvious security threat. They will have to improve their refugee camps, use the military to control the Bedouin-dominated areas in the Sinai better, manage their borders more effectively, and create means for citizenship. If there were valid ways to become Egyptian citizens, then the ability of traffickers to delude people would decrease markedly.

- ❖ Egypt may be a third world country. It may not have the right resources to fight off big organizations that are operating within its midst and specifically involving its people in human trafficking. Nevertheless, the best key to combating human trafficking could still be used by Egypt; its desire to educate its people and empower its population to face life in a better and more beneficial pattern is essential to this aspect of survival. The modern world is not free from the snares of forced labor. Human trafficking is only a bridge that serves that values of the wealthy and takes away the worth of the oppressed. Ceasing its effect on the Egyptian society would be hard considering that it has bigger umbrellas protecting it even in the scope of international trade. But both experts said that, even given the difficulties that the country is going through at present, the administrators of Egypt can still make meaningful policy changes.

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APPENDIX

Interviews

Interview (1)

Dr. Debra A. Budiani-Saberi, Ph.D.
Executive Director & Founder
Coalition for Organ-Failure Solutions (COFS)
Visiting Research Associate, Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania

Date of Interview: March 28, 2012

1. How do you define human trafficking for organ removal?

It is a combination of means which traffickers utilize to traffic victims. Threats and the use of force is used in some cases, however the majority of cases involve implicit coercive measures such as deceit and cheating.

2. How does it happen/ occur?

Refugees for instance seeking asylum in Egypt, they come for living. However, later they find out that smugglers who assisted them in crossing borders, are asking for exorbitant sum of money in exchange for their supply of food/drink/housing. To remedy the financial problems, victims are vulnerable to sell their organs in exchange for their stay in the country.

3. How does human trafficking differ from smuggling?

Smuggling is usually the act of deception; as mentioned previously, a victim is asked to pay a huge amount of money in compensation for his/her basic needs. Without the full knowledge of the risks involved, the victim agrees to sell his organs in payment of debt.

4. In your opinion, who do you think are potential victims of human trafficking?

Most of the potential victims are women and children refugees, because they are the most vulnerable and exploited to sex, labor & organ removal.

5. What are some of the reasons victims may be reluctant to try to escape or report the crime?

Because most victims believe that their smugglers are their protectors while on the contrary most of the smugglers collaborate and establish business with kidney traffickers. Thus they believe their illegal stay in the country is protected.

6. In what businesses or industries within third world community might trafficking be occurring?

In Egypt for instance, Human trafficking dealers usually look in Coffee shops or (Ahawi) for the most destitute and isolated looking individual. This is where they usually find their victims.

7. What are your recommendations for policy makers to do?

Raising awareness; inform the community, and act towards devising laws and policies to impede human trafficking through media, informative video clips, and locating the large organ banks laboratories where this illegal business taking place and have an eye on it.

Interview (2)

Official at WHO whom prefers to have the interview confidential

Date of Interview: March 29, 2012

1. Why might law enforcement and the community as a whole not be aware of this crime?

They are well aware and they know about this illegal business but they can't do anything about it. To verify things more, a major private Hospital is a leading hospital in the Middle East and North Africa specialized in cardiothoracic surgeries and organ transplantation. They do organ transplantation from victims to un-known persons. The founder of this hospital is a former senior official, former Health Minister. What can one say about this? When officials in the government are involved with illegal organ trafficking?

2. If the government knows about this, then why no one is taking any initiative?

If everyone is happy, selling an organ and another is receiving it. Why should anyone file a case against the hospital when everyone is getting what he/she wants.

3. In your opinion, who do you think are the potential victims of human trafficking?

Victims are usually poor Egyptian people who find the idea of selling their organs very tempting especially when exorbitant financial compensation is offered in return.

4. What are some of the reasons victims may be reluctant to try to escape or report the crime?

Victims are aware of the law which is: selling organs is prohibited but it can be donated only to 1st or 2nd degree relatives or the brain-dead. In their case, they are selling it to un-known people and thus by law this is illegal and prohibited. Because of this, they are tentative to ever report the crime because they are involved into this.

5. In what business or industries within a third world community might trafficking be occurring?

Brokers are almost always involved in this issue. They are to be seen around cafes looking for un-employed people, street children, generally speaking; desperate persons looking for a way to earn money, this is when brokers locate their victims and convince them of selling their organs. In addition, brokers are usually those who help people to illegally emigrate from Egypt.

6. Who are the traffickers? Where can one find them?

Brokers come in the middle of this business and they are very difficult to deal with. One can usually find them around large kidney bank laboratories such as Dr. MervatEl Ansary kidney lab, as well as Mohamed Ghoneim Mansoura Centre, Menoufia University liver centre, Mostafa Mahmoud Hospital.

7. What other illegal centers you know of?

The most famous one was Wadi El Nil Hospital, it used to be illegal but now the process has changed. In addition, I used to work at Maa'mal el Borg they as well were doing kidney, liver & blood tests and had kidney labs but all this has changed ever since the law was formulated at the year's end of 2010.

8. What is the most common way victims are deceived?

There are several means of deceiving, for instance, a young person can be riding a taxi when all of a sudden, the victim is drugged, kidnapped, extracted his/her body organs and left deserted to death.

In case the victim is aware that he will be selling his organ, the victim is usually not aware about other health-related risks issue involved after organ removal. This is also one way of deception. It is a scientific well known fact that 10% of those who sell their kidney need replaceable kidney transplantation too.

The third and the most renowned deceiving way: when it comes to financial obligations. The broker agrees with the victim a certain amount of money and then the victim never receives the agreed amount.

9. Which third world countries are the most 'hot spots' for human trafficking?

The most prominent ones are Philippines, Pakistan and Egypt come the third in the list.

10. What are your recommendations for policy makers to do?

The basic law has to be effectively implemented. It is not implemented by any means. Policy makers need to review what other Arab Countries are doing in terms of organ transplantation for instance Saudi Arabia (SCOT) Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation has one of the most effective processes, Kuwait and UAE too.

Interview (3)

Dr. Mounir Farag

Regional Adviser HHS & Medical Officer

Health System Strengthening (HSS)

World Health Organization

Date of Interview: March 29, 2012

1. Who in your belief are the victims?

Victims are usually poor street people, street kids and the un-employed.

2. Have you heard of any refugee victims?

No, never heard of it. It's almost always poor Egyptians.

3. Where can we find the brokers?

You will find them in kidney bank laboratories. There are bank laboratories for both kidney and liver.

4. Which organ is more expensive than the other or are they both the same?

Liver is mostly a little bit more expensive than the kidney.

5. Do you know of any kidney or liver laboratory?

Yes, there is Moo'mena Kamel Lab. Yet I don't know about this particular's lab legality issues.

6. What's your definition of human trafficking?

In my belief, anything that involves monetary transactions is considered trafficking. If the receiver is granting money to a second party, this is trafficking in itself.

7. Are there any particular locations/areas where most victims are found to be delivering organs?

I know of 'Ma3had Nasr Lab' this is where most victims and brokers are found.

8. Which third world countries you believe HT is heavily considered 'hot spots'?

In order from the highest to the lowest: India, Brazil, Pakistan & Egypt.

9. What are your recommendations for policy makers to do?

Strengthening bio-ethical issues could be an effective start for policy makers.

Interview (4)

Nasser Gouweida

Ahram Newspaper Reporter

Covering his article on Friday 30th of March 2012

Article by the title of:

“A famous Doctor in Alexandria brings street kids and the needy people to rob them off their organs”

Date of Interview: April 03, 2012

1. I wish to know: how have you heard of this hideous felony?

I learned about that from an officer who works at Aa'ttarin Police division in Alexandria.

2. What did you do next when you heard about it?

A reporter always has to verify the news he/she hears. So I contacted Adel Emara who has direct access with all recent crimes and felonies committed in Alexandria and he confirmed the news.

3. Who in your belief are the victims?

Poor street kids and the needy people

4. What methods do traffickers use to recruit their victims?

There are several ways of tricking victims. The one I heard of that happened a couple of years ago was that of poor person who went for tonsils surgical removal and was robbed off his kidney without knowledge or consent.

In addition to that as I mentioned in my article, doctors and brokers trick their victims into believing that they can donate blood or kidney and in return they get financial compensation. They don't get a penny afterwards.

5. Is it easy to reach victims? In your article, you mentioned that victims have gone to file a case against the doctor, can you please explain how were they first approached?

Yes it's very easy, and a number of organ trafficking crimes have expanded to a noticeable degree. It's very easy to locate for people who are so willing to donate and remove their organs for amount of 60,000 for instance.

In the article, victims have been approached by the doctor's assistant. They go to cafes, Egypt's Train Station or any other rural areas and look for young people who can sacrifice their organs for 60,000 pounds.

6. Usually how old are the victims?

They are youth, aging from 17 to 25. They are not aware of this deceptive industry.

7. How do you describe this industry?

It has become like a gangster and their specialty is to expertly locate un-knowledgeable victims and lure them with a sum of money, and in return all what they get is a meager amount of 5 to 10 pounds.

8. Where can we find the brokers?

It's not easy to locate them and they are not to expose their identity to any inquisitive person but they are surely to be found around hospitals.

9. Which hospitals carry on with this illegal activity?

Most hospitals can open its surgical rooms for any doctor who reserves it in advance. They don't care about details such as the patient's medical history or the doctor's professional integrity; etc... all what they care of is that doctors' meet the hospital's financial obligations.

10. What are your recommendations for policy makers to do?

Awareness campaigns especially from the media because it's the most powerful tool.

11. In such cases of human trafficking crimes, what's the punishment for the defendant?

It varies from 3-5 years.

12. Finally, can you extend me with the defendant's name?

Yes, sure I can. But please if I told you, do not release it in your research. This should remain confidential for ethical issues. The name is withhold

Interview (5)

United Nations Office on Drug and Crime representative who prefers to have his interview confidential

Date of Interview: February 2012

1. How would you characterize the human trafficking situation in Egypt?

Egypt may become a very serious hub for trafficking in the near future. Mubarak was not very good about dealing with the problem, but the new government has so much to deal with that, despite their efforts (which I think are sincere) and best intentions, they are still going to struggle because they have so much else to do.

2. Compared to other countries, how is the human trafficking situation in Egypt unique?

I think the thing that characterizes Egypt is that, despite the fact that it's a relatively advanced Middle Eastern nation, there's still enough sex tourism, forced marriage, etc. that makes it more closely resemble much less developed nations.

3. Who are the primary traffickers?

The Bedouin are a crucial component, but even industrial owners and businessmen purchase forced labor, and there are non-Bedouin forced laborers.

4. What kind of things are forced labor and human trafficking victims being forced to do?

Our organ harvesting problem is not so serious, though it is certainly likely that those victims who pass through Egypt are sometimes killed for their organs in other countries. It is mostly work and sex that forced labor are forced to do here.

5. What would you recommend Egyptian policy-makers do in order to reduce human trafficking and impede the ability of traffickers?

In my opinion, stronger police work and tougher laws are crucial, as is awareness rising. People need to be taught about the problem; if they are aware, the Egyptian democracy movements will probably fight and pressure the government. Conviction and arrest rates need to go up; if they are high enough, then buyers will steer clear (as they are usually not hardened criminals) and sellers will have to raise their prices.

The easiest thing that the government could do, and this would help the new government become more secure as well, is secure the border and solve its refugee problem. Refugees are frequently the victims, and are overwhelmingly those captured in Egypt.

Egypt also needs to improve its foreign aid, reaching out to America and to other nations to get funding to stop the human trafficking situation. Human trafficking is an inherently cross-border issue, and the UN and other international organizations already are attempting to fight it.

6. From 1 to 10, how would you characterize the problem in Egypt? Explain.

I would say a 4. The problem is serious, and there are many people who are benefitting directly or indirectly from the traffic, but it is much smaller than other countries. Unlike other countries, native Egyptians are rarely captured in Egypt; those who are actually kidnapped in Egypt are usually recent immigrants or recent refugees.

Interview with Trafficked Woman #1
Date of Interview: April 2012

First, let me express my sincere apologies for your experiences. How were you trafficked?

I lived in Iraq before being trafficked. I lived near the Jordanian border to the east. It was getting very dangerous to live in the area: We heard bombs blowing up many nights out of the week. I heard that someone could smuggle me across the border. I had secretarial skills and heard that Egypt or Saudi Arabia would be able to employ me. I arranged to pay what I could. When I was dropped off, I was at a nice home and was told that I would have to do domestic work. I did domestic work for three months before there was a complaint and I was able to be freed. I never felt that I had been told that I would have to work as a domestic: I was guaranteed I could be free immediately. I worked with a few other people; I don't know if they were trafficked or not.

Were you mistreated?

The household I worked for would hit me if I disobeyed or didn't do good work, but they were not extremely cruel and I was fed a few meals a day. I was never sexually abused or raped.

How many people did you see being trafficked?

I didn't know. For all I knew, the other two domestics in the house were permanent employees or contractors.

Interview with Trafficked Woman #2

April 2012

First, let me express my sincere apologies for your experiences. How were you trafficked?

I'm Russian. When I was in a club, I was captured by people I would guess were mobsters. We were trafficked on a private plane and threatened by guns. I was told that I would have to make money by offering sex. I was going to go to America, but I managed to escape in Egypt.

Were you mistreated?

Many of the clients I was forced to have sex with were abusive or violent, though not all were. Many thought I was a regular prostitute. My boss would beat me and rape me and the other girls repeatedly, and we knew that we had to avoid eye contact and act eager for the customers.

How many people did you see being trafficked?

I was trafficked with two other girls. I saw that there may have been about five or six prostitutes that were forced to be there alongside some of the other girls.

Interview with Trafficked Woman #3
April 2012

First, let me express my sincere apologies for your experiences. How were you trafficked?

I immigrated from Africa, from Algeria in specific. When I got to the Egyptian border, Berbers found me and some other people I had been fleeing with. They took us into Egypt and we were sold for industrial labor.

Were you mistreated?

We were forced to work twelve hour days six days a week, but foremen were not particularly abusive. If we refused to work or were slow, we were threatened, but rarely beaten.

How many people did you see being trafficked?

I was trafficked with only a few other people, around three to seven.

What did you expect was going to happen when your employers were done with you?

I don't know. The foremen said that, if we worked hard, we'd eventually be let go. I heard nightmare stories, but most people had heard that they probably would just be dropped at the border or released with threats of death if they ever spoke to the police. There never was a clear communication of how long the work lasted, but it was pretty clear to us working that they had only taken us because they needed more workers for a rush.

Interview with Trafficked Woman #4
May 2012

First, let me express my sincere apologies for your experiences. How were you trafficked?

I was captured at the Egyptian-Eritrean border. I was told I was going to be sold to a man as a sex forced labor.

Were you mistreated?

I was frequently beaten. I was told that I would have to be obedient. If I spoke up or even asked for water, I was attacked.

How many people did you see being trafficked?

I do not know. I was always kept alone.

How did you get flee?

I managed to flee when I was pulled out of a cage and there was a delay in putting me into a car to be taken.