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News on Trafficking in Persons



NEWS FROM IRELAND

31-Dec-2009: Gardaí under investigation for alleged involvement in prostitution/trafficking racket

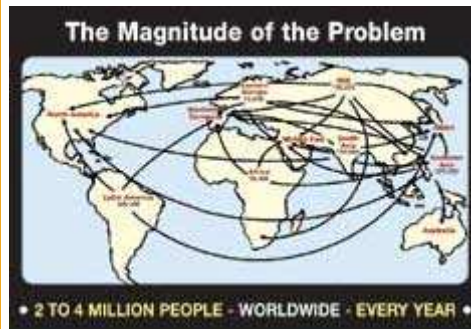
An article that appeared on the *Herald* newspaper website on 31 December 2009 discloses how several members of the Gardaí have been arrested and questioned for allegedly running a brothel and prostitution ring and using the services of foreign national women who may have been trafficked into Ireland.

One officer, who has already been arrested, is suspected of running a brothel in a house outside Sligo and setting a number of foreign prostitutes to work in the town centre. Two other men, both serving gardaí, are alleged to have driven prostitutes and their clients to this house.

Because the African women employed as prostitutes were allegedly trafficked into the State, the garda was questioned under the Human Trafficking Act. He apparently earned up to €130,000 from the racket. It is believed to have been in operation for a number of years but only came to the notice of detectives last year. It is suspected that the racket may also have been in operation in areas outside Sligo and this is being investigated.

Senior Garda authorities are extremely concerned about the allegations.

It is worth noting that Fine Gael claims that 97pc of the 1,000 women believed to be involved in indoor prostitution in the State are migrants.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SEE MORE INTERNATIONAL NEWS December 20, 2009 *News from Nigeria*

New depths of depravity in Human Trafficking have been uncovered in Nigeria with the revelation by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that child trafficking is now a high-profit business in some of Nigeria's poor areas.

Children and babies are said to be sold by orphanage workers and operators of illegal hospitals and maternity homes. Even some health workers, including doctors and nurses, are allegedly involved in selling newborn babies after telling mothers their babies had died. Unwanted babies, like those born out of wedlock, are particularly at risk.

According to local newspaper reports, the price of a baby varies between \$2000 and \$3000. Some children are sold for adoption by childless couples, others to be trained as beggars or prostitutes. The matron of one orphanage in Nigeria spoke to VOA about this horrific crime. She told of women who traffick babies for profit. They persuade mothers to give their babies up for a better life. They then sell them on to others or they may keep them themselves for begging purposes, often inflicting wounds on them to excite compassion.

The state commissioner for women's affairs in one state, Anambra, says orphanages in the state are being monitored in an ongoing crackdown against the buying and selling of babies. They are determined to punish anyone caught in this nefarious trade. She also said social welfare officers are on the ground to stop illegalities involving adoption procedures and to close down unregistered homes.

Nigeria passed anti-trafficking legislation in 2003 to deal with the growing numbers of people being trafficked but convictions against human traffickers remain rare.

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