

Israel's Slave Trade Continues Unabated

by Christopher Bollyn
10 December 2002

An Israeli parliamentary report found that thousands of non-Jewish women remain enslaved in Israel's sex industry, and that traffickers go **unpunished**.



However, with billions of dollars in U.S. aid at stake, the State Dept. says Israel is making "significant efforts" to eliminate human trafficking.

Update: instead of **eliminating** the sex slave trade, news reports are showing that it is **increasing** in Israel. For example, in 2005:

Israel's Sex Trade Escalating
3,000-5,000 Women Smuggled Into Country In Last Four Years

JERUSALEM, March 23, 2005

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/03/23/world/main682673.shtml>

Many people dismiss the sex slave problem on the grounds that it **doesn't affect them** because the only people caught in the trade are stupid or mentally ill.

However, the evidence is overwhelming that the **customers** of the sex slaves are sometimes promoted into leadership in the government, media, military, and business, thereby giving Israel **control over our nation**. This blackmail issue **affects all of us**.

The people who purchased Johnny Gosch and the other two boys in [this photo](#) had a lot of money, so they may be influential members of American society.

When Israel was black listed by the U.S. State Dept. in 2001 for being among the nations that facilitate the slave trade by failing to take "significant efforts" to eliminate human trafficking, billions of dollars in U.S. aid were in jeopardy. However, despite a damning Israeli government report criticizing the Jewish state for being lax on traffickers, who go unpunished, the State Dept. has upgraded Israel's status, removing the possibility of meaningful sanctions.

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000), beginning with the 2003 report, countries that fail to make "significant efforts" to prevent the trading of human beings will be subject to termination of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance.

Although the government of Israel still does not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, the State Dept. says it is "making significant efforts" to do so.

"Israel," Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said on June 5, when the 2002 trafficking report favorable to Israel was released, "worked with us to significantly strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts."

"Israel," Nancy Ely-Raphel from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons added, had "aggressively pursued anti-trafficking initiatives since the first report was issued last year."

Six months later, however, a special Israeli parliamentary committee looking into the slave trade in Israel challenges the claims made by senior State Dept. officials. The special report revealed that "3,000 women are sold each year in Israel's sex industry, in transactions with an annual volume of \$1 billion," according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

The report described Israel's sex industry as a "modern form of slavery."

Most of the women slaves are sold to the owners of some 250 brothels in the Tel Aviv area, according to The Jerusalem Post. There are an estimated 300 to 400 brothels engaged in Israel's slave trade, it said.

Victims trapped in the sex industry "suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and physical restraint," according to a State Dept. description.

The women, mostly from the republics of the former Soviet Union, are usually smuggled in by traffickers who promise them legitimate jobs. The report said the borders with Egypt should be better controlled, making the dubious claim that it is along this border that women were being smuggled into the country.

Because Israel has some of the tightest border controls in the world it is highly

unlikely that thousands of women could be "smuggled" into the country without the knowledge and acquiescence of the highest authorities.

Once in Israel, the women are sold and forced to work in the sex industry. They receive \$25 - \$30 per customer, of which the pimp takes between 80 and 90 percent, the report said. The women are forced to work 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week and receive an average of 10 to 15 clients daily, the report said.

Testimony provided by sex workers - and minors - who appeared before the Israeli parliamentary committee detailed the abusive, criminal aspects of trafficking. After the women are purchased, their passports are confiscated and they have to "buy back" their freedom, enduring constant threats, coercion and rape, the report said.

Under current Israeli enforcement procedures, most attempts to prosecute trafficking offenders end in plea bargain agreements and light sentences of public service work, or brief prison terms. The report says that current Israeli law enforcement efforts against pimps and slave traders are "inadequate".

Israeli judges do not deliver harsh sentences against convicted slave traders, Ha'aretz wrote. Although the maximum is 16 years in jail, the courts have made a travesty of the laws, the report said. The lengthiest sentence handed down against a convicted sex slave trader was four years, yet most sentences are no longer than 18 months. Israeli police do not go after the top echelons of the sex trade industry, Ha'aretz wrote. Most indictments are served against low-level pimps.

The chairwoman of the committee, Zehava Gal-On, said the Israeli legal system does not have the means necessary to deter traffickers, she said. "When traffickers get to court they get lenient sentences," she said.

Gal-On said that since Israel had been placed on the State Department blacklist as a place where "white slavery" thrived, some improvement had been made in Israel.

Israel's law against trafficking remains fundamentally flawed because, like all Israeli law, there is a different standard for Jews and non-Jews. According to an Israeli expert who exposed this double standard within Israeli law, the late Israel Shahak, under Jewish laws "racist definition, all women who happen to have been born non-Jewish are automatically considered to be 'harlots'."

American Free Press asked the State Department's office dealing with human trafficking why Israel's status had been upgraded when there is no evidence that any significant effort had been made to halt the trade in human beings.

"Israel is one of the leaders in the Middle East," an official who asked to remain anonymous said, "they are trying to clean up their act." The official said that nobody

would speak on the record on this matter.

Asked about the racial double standard inherent in Israeli law, the official said, "The color of law" would be something they would be interested in seeing changed.

Important: None of the "truth seekers" -- not even the *American Free Press* newspaper -- will promote Christopher Bollyn's work.

Christopher Bollyn was a journalist who wrote for the American Free Press of Washington, D.C. They have since fired him for suspicious reasons:

[Bollyn-fired-from-AFP.html](#)

Can you understand **why** they got rid of their best reporter? Can you figure out why Webster Tarpley, 911truth.org, and virtually every other "truth seeker" is trying their best to ignore him?

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