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United States Mission to the OSCE

Release of the 2009 Trafficking in Persons Report

As delivered by
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey VanDreal
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 18, 2009

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman,

On June 16, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton released the ninth annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report. The 175-country report is the most comprehensive worldwide report on the efforts of governments to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons, a modern-day form of slavery.

The Report's findings are intended to raise global awareness and spur countries to take effective actions to counter trafficking in persons. The United States estimates that each year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked across national borders. Human trafficking victims can be subjected to labor exploitation or sexual exploitation, or both.

This year's Report includes a particular focus on the effects of the global economic crisis on the supply and demand of human trafficking. Modern-day slavery, involving millions of people every year, continues to be a problem in nearly every country in the world, including the United States. Traffickers continue to search for new opportunities to exploit men, women, and children.

We are proud to partner with other countries, international organizations, and NGOs to fight human trafficking. In 2008, the U.S. Government spent approximately \$76 million to fund 140 projects in about 70 countries to support foreign government and NGO efforts to combat human trafficking. Since 2001, the USG has funded more than \$604 million for anti-trafficking projects outside the United States. Moreover, U.S. Government efforts to promote the rule of law and economic reforms in many countries help reduce the conditions which facilitate trafficking.

The full text of the Report is available on the State Department's website,

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.