

## Germany

### Trafficking in human beings during the football World Cup

Allow me a few words on the issue of trafficking in human beings during the football or soccer World Cup held in June and July this year. There were concerns that this event would also lead to a higher occurrence of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation to Germany. Fighting human trafficking and forced prostitution was therefore a priority in Germany before and during the World Cup. To this effect, the security concept for the World Cup did not only concentrate on measures against terrorism and hooliganism, but also gave high priority to fighting other crimes including forced prostitution and human trafficking.

On the one hand, the police stepped up controls in the cities hosting the tournament to exert a deterring effect on potential traffickers of human beings. Stricter and more extensive controls and focused search operations by the *Länder* police forces increased the probability of detecting cases of human trafficking. Furthermore, the officers operating the general emergency line of the police received special training regarding trafficking in human beings in order to enable them to respond to calls referring to forced prostitution. Also, a special office was set up at the Federal Criminal Police Office to compile and analyse information collected by police forces and law enforcement agencies of the 16 German states.

On the other hand, the assistance provided by specialized non-governmental counseling services to trafficking victims was stepped up with additional financial support from the German Government. At the same time, the German Women's Council ran a campaign called "Final Whistle –

Stop Forced Prostitution”, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, in order to use the publicity and popularity of the World Cup to raise the general awareness for the topic.

So far, preliminary data collected by police forces and counselling centers do not confirm an increase in trafficking in human beings during the FIFA World Cup. However, the data are still being processed and analysed. Germany will present the results as soon as the report has been finalized, probably by the end of this year.

Thank you very much for your attention.