

## Trafficking in Persons

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- Egypt has always been fully committed to the efforts exerted by the international community to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms. It ratified most of the core international and regional agreements related to human rights, especially those related to combating trafficking in persons, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. All the international conventions and agreements that Egypt ratified became an important part of its legal system. Moreover, the Egyptian legislative framework regulates dealing with all forms of trafficking in persons. The Penal code criminalizes all such forms, especially the severe ones, and includes specific clause to prosecute, protect and prevent such crimes.
- Egypt, according to international reports , is a transit country .It exerts tremendous efforts to combat trafficking in persons; it tightened border control, consolidated cooperation among various stakeholders namely ministries of interior, tourism, justice ,foreign affairs and local communities in Sinai. Egypt is in the process of elaborating a comprehensive strategy to deal with the problem, including establishing a national committee to combat trafficking in persons.
- Honoring its international obligations, Egypt is keen on providing health and psychological care, legal assistance and shelter to victims which constitutes a burden on it as a developing country. International assistance is needed in order to assist to provide health and psychological care, legal assistance and shelter to the victims of trafficking in persons transiting on its territory.
- Furthermore, we would welcome cooperation in the field of training of law enforcement personnel, judges and public prosecutors on issues of trafficking in persons to enable them to better address this new phenomenon, without negatively impacting on the flow of tourism. Such cooperation could be in the framework of the capacity building program on human rights which is currently running by cooperation with UNDP, for police officers and law enforcement personnel.
- Egypt also plays a very active role through the UN committee on the Rights of the child as it has Ambassador Moshira Khattab, the Egyptian expert among its experts. The committee in reviewing state party is very vigilant in monitoring the implementation of their obligations to prevent trafficking; protect victims and ensure protection of perpetrators.

- The first lady, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, as President of the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement recently contributed in a round table held in Athens, in January 2006 to the launching of an international initiative in cooperation with member of the business community. This initiative involves the adoption of the following set of ethical principles against trafficking in persons, especially of women and children:
  - Explicitly demonstrate the position of zero tolerance towards trafficking in human beings, especially women and children for sexual exploitation.
  - Contribute to prevention of trafficking in human beings including awareness-raising campaigns and education.
  - Develop a corporate strategy for an anti-trafficking policy which will permeate all our activities.
  - Ensure that our personnel fully comply with our anti-trafficking policy.
  - Encourage business partners, including suppliers, to apply ethical principles against human trafficking.
  - In an effort to increase enforcement it is necessary to call on governments to initiate a process of revision of laws and regulations that are directly or indirectly related to enhancing ant-trafficking policies.
  - Report and share information on best practices.
  
- Egypt believes that the international community should cooperate in the fight against this new form of organized crime, through implementing the relevant provisions included in the protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person in relation to international assistance to developing countries. Only through collaborative efforts under the umbrella of the United Nations and OSCE, trafficking in persons be can effectively combated through addressing the factors stimulating both demand and supply, and strengthening cooperation between law enforcement bodies, and helping countries to develop their legal and institutional frameworks.