

MEXICO TIP SHELTER PROJECT

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INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report summarizes the activities conducted and results achieved by the CAP Mexico Trafficking in Persons (“TIP”) Shelter Project—PROTEJA, Proyecto de Apoyo a Refugios para Victimas de Trata de Personas en Mexico—from October 1 to December 31, 2008. The activities PROTEJA conducted pursuant to its expanded Scope of Work, in particular the development of educational workshops on victim identification and referral protocols, are reported in the G-TIP report found immediately after the Conclusion.

The PROTEJA project began in May 2006. The overall goal of PROTEJA is to create an environment to effectively combat trafficking in persons in Mexico and to deliver more effective services to TIP victims. To achieve these goals, PROTEJA has concentrated its efforts on four specific areas, which include:

- Raising public awareness of the issue of human trafficking;
- Providing technical assistance to federal and state congresses to support the legal categorization of human trafficking as a crime;
- Providing technical and financial support to selected shelters to develop integrated service models that address the specific needs of TIP victims; and
- Providing technical assistance to networks and task forces to coordinate the diverse efforts that exist to combat human trafficking and to establish or improve the provision of restorative care to trafficking victims.

In May 2008, PROTEJA tailored its work to reflect the progress that had been made in its first two years of operation. As a result, in addition to continuing its efforts in each of the above areas, PROTEJA also is:

- ▶ Working to ensure that the anti-TIP legislation approved at the federal level (Nov. 2007) and in seven states (Chihuahua, Guerrero, Zacatecas, Mexico, Sonora, Morelos, and Oaxaca (adopted this quarter)) is effectively implemented;
- ▶ Developing integrated social policies among government and non-governmental institutions to improve the protection and assistance provided to TIP victims;
- ▶ Increasing the impact and sustainability of the Models of Intervention for victims and survivors of TIP used by the shelters; and
- ▶ Further developing the capabilities of local networks and task forces to prevent TIP and assist its victims.

These enhancements to PROTEJA’s work plan are designed to strengthen the end results and the sustainability of the advances made by PROTEJA since May 2006. The work done in each of these areas is reported within the original four areas of concentration.

PROTEJA continues to build upon existing anti-trafficking government efforts, non-governmental organization (NGO) initiatives, and program activities by international

organizations in Mexico. PROTEJA works with the Mexican government and civil society to expand their efforts and to articulate a more coherent, integrated, and coordinated response to human trafficking, particularly at the state and local levels.

The following sets forth PROTEJA's work in each of the areas described above. A brief introduction is given that describes generally what PROTEJA does, and why, with respect to the area of concentration, and then a report of the relevant events of the quarter is provided.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Introduction:

Raising public awareness of human trafficking has been one of the most important components of PROTEJA's work since its inception in May 2006. Little more than two years ago, much of the general public was unaware that TIP was occurring, it was not classified as a crime anywhere in Mexico, and potential victims did not think to guard against it. This lack of understanding has had several implications.

First, in order to promote legislation that addresses TIP effectively, another of PROTEJA's key activities, state and federal legislatures must be made to fully comprehend the issue, including its root causes and the consequences it poses to society. In addition, legislatures rarely act unless there is public pressure for them to do so. Therefore, raising public awareness is critical to mobilizing the public's and elected officials' support of comprehensive anti-TIP legislation.

Increased awareness also enables government and civil society to readily identify victims and provide services that address their specific needs. More awareness is also essential to help unsuspecting men, women, and children avoid becoming victims of "dream-sellers" who deceive them with false promises to improve their lives and then trap them in trafficking rings. Finally, without more consciousness of the issue, it is difficult to identify and build relationships among stakeholders that could cooperate to identify, advocate for, and provide services to TIP victims.

Since May 2006, PROTEJA has increased public understanding of TIP and has been able to usher in policy changes as a result of this heightened awareness. It has achieved this through a variety of means, including training of the public sector and civil society; offering educational forums to the general public; utilizing the media to highlight the issue; developing an interactive website; and producing educational materials like pamphlets and a short film to reach broader audiences. But much remains to be done, and education on TIP at all societal and organizational levels remains a cornerstone to build upon in order to move forward with the other goals of PROTEJA.

October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008:

Focusing its educational efforts on those persons best positioned to effect change, PROTEJA presented numerous programs this quarter. The programs were designed to strengthen the abilities and understanding of the participants so that they could more readily identify TIP and its victims and better serve victims' needs. PROTEJA presented more than 216 hours of education on diverse themes related to TIP to more than 1337 public servants.¹ Presentations included "The Basic Aspects of TIP"; "The National and International Judicial Framework to Facilitate Work on Identification of TIP Victims in Mexico"; and the "Detection of Cases", as well as information on interventions for and assistance to victims. The material was presented in a variety of formats and venues, including two training workshops; six courses given to state Offices of Attorneys General (Federal District, two in Baja California, Quintana Roo, Guadalajara, and Jalisco); four forums, including one international in scope and one bi-national in scope; one course on "TIP and the Procurement of Justice"; and one conference and two seminars on the above themes.

With respect to media coverage, the activities of PROTEJA were reported on this quarter in thirty-two different instances in major newspapers in the Federal District, Oaxaca, Ciudad Juarez, and the State of Mexico (See Attachment B: Samples of Trafficking in Persons Newspaper Articles). In addition, PROTEJA participated in three interviews via electronic media, including "La RED", an "Interview with Javier Solorzano" and "el Diario de Mexico." This coverage is extremely important for two reasons. First, these media reach very broad audiences and offer education on TIP to the public at a low cost to PROTEJA. Second, it is a sign of the progress PROTEJA has made on TIP public awareness and education that media outlets are seeking these stories. Less than two years ago, TIP was little recognized, and the public often confused it with illegal immigration. Now, "trafficking" is often referenced without a detailed explanation, which indicates a broader understanding of the issue.

PROTEJA's website, www.proteja.com.mx, is continuing to serve as an excellent resource both for the public and those who are working to combat TIP. It is the only website in Mexico that specializes in TIP. The website provides information for anyone wishing to learn more about TIP in general, as well as the efforts of PROTEJA and other actors to combat it. In addition, it serves as a tool to coordinate the resources of individuals and organizations working to combat TIP. This quarter, PROTEJA converted the material on the website into a PowerPoint presentation to create another educational tool.

Also this quarter, PROTEJA concluded the filming of the short film "The Exploitation of the XXI Century: Trafficking in Persons." The film illustrates how human trafficking affects its victims, and it will be used as an instrument to promote prevention of this crime. PROTEJA partnered with two local organizations, the Confederación Revolucionaria de Obreros y Campesinos (CROC) and the Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (CNDH), to produce this film. PROTEJA and these two partners will organize a launch event at which the film will be

¹ Among those organizations educated were the National Commission on Human Rights, National Migration Institute, National Institute of Women, Office of the Attorney General, state Offices of Attorneys General, Secretary of Public Education, Secretary of Tourism, state offices of the National Commission on Human Rights, Secretary of Health, Secretary of Public Security, and the Center for Investigation and National Security.

premiered before an audience of key players in the fight against human trafficking. These will include high-level public servants from various institutions, distinguished scholars, experts in human trafficking, NGOs, and representatives of the media. A production company will provide PROTEJA with 1000 copies of the film, 300 for each of the partners and 100 to be distributed to the individuals mentioned above. In addition, PROTEJA will distribute the film to the political leaders of various states where TIP training has been provided, and to officers who have helped to prosecute this crime. Following the launch of the film in mid-February, PROTEJA will post the film in its entirety on the project website, www.proteja.com.mx, as well as other human trafficking websites if possible.

As public understanding and awareness are the greatest tools in the fight against TIP, PROTEJA will continue to work with the above-mentioned organizations and on its current and new projects in the upcoming quarter to educate more Mexicans on TIP, its causes and consequences.

Next quarter, PROTEJA will focus on the necessity to develop more mechanisms to strengthen the understanding and capabilities of the government and civil society to combat TIP, including more vehicles by which the general public, in particular potential victims, can be educated about the dangers of trafficking. PROTEJA has in its work plan suggested developing more audiovisual material that can reach the individuals most susceptible to TIP and the communities where TIP occurs. PROTEJA has proposed developing another short film that would represent five cases of exploitation, each depicting a distinct type of TIP, including exploitation for the purposes of labor, sex, servitude, forced marriage, and slavery. Such a film would visually demonstrate the crime, break myths and stereotypes regarding how victims become vulnerable, and help bring TIP to the forefront as a social, cultural, economic, and legal problem that affects the entire nation.

(Please refer to Table 1 at end of report for a comprehensive list of meetings that PROTEJA attended or organized as part of its TIP awareness-building efforts.)

ANTI-TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Introduction:

Anti-TIP legislation is needed for both the proper prosecution of those who traffic in persons and to provide the necessary support to victims of trafficking. There are obstacles to providing support to victims of an offense that is not recognized as a crime by authorities, government entities, or society in general. Thus, the passage of legislation that specifically punishes traffickers and protects TIP victims, TIP witnesses, and service providers is essential to the success of any model that provides integrated attention to TIP victims.

PROTEJA has worked at the federal level and in the states to enact comprehensive anti-TIP legislation. On October 2, 2007, the Mexican National Congress approved the *federal Law to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons*. PROTEJA worked closely with the Legislature throughout the progression of this legislation to ensure it adequately punishes perpetrators of

trafficking, protects victims, and complies with other important international agreements on trafficking. President Calderon signed the law on November 26, 2007, and it was officially published the following day, making it effective November 28, 2007.

While the federal legislation is an enormous step, it is limited to those aspects of trafficking that have an impact at the national level. State legislation is also needed because state congresses legislate crimes that have an impact at the local or state level. This is important because while in other countries most TIP-related offenses are committed by organized crime, usually a federal offense, in Mexico there are many instances when that is not the case. For example, there are cases of parents, stepparents, or relatives prostituting their children, wives or domestic partners, and cases of parents selling their children. The TIP legislation approved at the federal level would not address these cases. Thus, it is critical that the state congresses continue to pass comprehensive anti-TIP legislation that enables the prosecution of traffickers and protects victims in all cases of human trafficking.

PROTEJA set an initial goal of ushering the adoption of anti-TIP legislation in six states. Last July, PROTEJA reached this goal. PROTEJA was the primary force behind the advancement of the anti-TIP legislation adopted in the following states:

Chihuahua, adopted January 1, 2007;
Guerrero adopted April 17, 2007;
Zacatecas, adopted September 15, 2007;
Mexico, adopted December 29, 2007;
Sonora, adopted April 7, 2008; and
Morelos, adopted July 9, 2008.

As described below, PROTEJA has now surpassed its goal with Oaxaca's adoption of anti-TIP legislation on November 6, 2008.

As noted in the Introduction, PROTEJA is now working to ensure that the anti-TIP legislation in these states and at the federal level is being implemented effectively. In addition, PROTEJA is continuing its work with other states that have begun the process to adopt anti-TIP legislation. PROTEJA has given legislative advice on anti-TIP reforms in over half of the states in Mexico. Due to time and budget constraints, a majority of this work is now being done via conference calls and email.

October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008:

State Activity

- On November 6, 2008, **Oaxaca** approved an anti-TIP legislative initiative. The comprehensive anti-TIP legislation was drafted and shared by PROTEJA for consideration by policy makers. PROTEJA met with representatives of the Oaxacan Congress in October to educate them about potential beneficial aspects of the language drafted, and it was adopted soon thereafter.

- PROTEJA continued to provide support to the **State of Mexico** by offering a training workshop to its public ministers and judges on the anti-TIP reforms recently made to the state's Penal Code.

International Cooperation and Coordination for the Effective Implementation of the Federal anti-TIP Legislation

As TIP is very often international in scope, international coordination is critical to effectively investigate and prosecute traffickers. Thus, in order to coordinate resources and to promote the effective implementation of Mexico's federal anti-TIP legislation, PROTEJA continued to meet with the U.S. Department of Justice to assist in the development of materials and training for their counterparts at the Mexican Office of the Attorney General. PROTEJA also participated in a workshop organized by the Department of Justice and presented to representatives of Mexico's Office of the Attorney General.

Comparative Analysis

PROTEJA is working with the National Commission on Human Rights to develop a comparative analysis of existing state legislation on TIP. This comparative analysis provides an overview of existing state laws that penalize TIP. Its goal is to identify the Mexican states that have classified TIP as a crime and to determine if they are compliant with the international legislative instruments that govern criminal prosecution of the crime. It will help PROTEJA and others identify which state codes are most in need of immediate reform. In addition, it will clarify definitions, concepts, and the relevant actors and actions, all with the goal of assisting those who are attempting to understand the phenomenon of TIP in Mexico, including lawyers, legislators, civil servants, academics, and the public.

PROTEJA has completed its work analyzing the TIP criminal codes of all 32 Mexican states. During this quarter, the National Commission on Human Rights compiled the sections analyzing the criminal codes in the various states and conducted a final stylistic review. PROTEJA expects the printing and distribution of the final analysis to be completed next quarter. The analysis will be entitled "Mexican Criminal Legislation Relating to Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes."

Legislative Manual

While Mexico has made great advances legislatively regarding TIP, much more is needed at the state level. Nineteen states² have some form of legislation that addresses TIP as a crime (not all do so comprehensively); however, twelve states³ do not recognize TIP as a crime in their penal codes.

² Aguascalientes, Baja California, Campeche, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Colima, State of Mexico, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacan, Morelos, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosi, Sonora, Tlaxcala, and Zacatecas

³ Baja California Sur, Chiapas, Durango, Hidalgo, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, Queretaro, Sinaloa, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and Yucatan

To assist those seeking to make legislative changes on TIP, PROTEJA is writing with UNICEF a manual that will set forth PROTEJA's legislative strategy for pursuing legislative anti-TIP reforms. Having a strategy written and available to others will help ensure that uniform and effective reforms are sought. The manual has been written and is undergoing a technical review. A style review has not yet been completed, but is expected to soon be completed. The manual, entitled "Considerations to Classify and Sanction Trafficking in Persons in Accordance with International Agreements," is expected to be published next quarter.

(Please refer to Table 2 at end of report for a list of meetings that PROTEJA attended or organized as part of its TIP legislative assistance component.)

STRENGTHENING LOCAL SHELTERS TO OFFER GREATER SERVICES

Introduction:

The third component of PROTEJA's program involves working directly with local shelters.

PROTEJA carried out a survey at the end of 2006 that revealed that no shelters in Mexico had service models that considered the causes and consequences of TIP. A few shelters offered services to TIP victims, but they did not take into consideration TIP victims' special circumstances and needs (psychological, legal, and otherwise) and treated them in the same manner as their general target population. In addition, most shelters did not track the number and characteristics of the TIP victims they served. This survey revealed the need to professionalize and standardize the provision of services to TIP victims in Mexico.

Working towards this goal, in May 2007 PROTEJA selected four shelters to receive financial and technical support for up to one year. This program concluded May 15, 2008. The shelters were chosen based on their solid track record of service provision to victims of crime and violence in Mexico. With PROTEJA's assistance, the shelters have attempted to optimize their limited resources and cooperate with other organizations to provide comprehensive services to victims, including legal, social, educational, and mental health services. The four shelters that PROTEJA supported through its sub-grants program were:

- Centro de Atención a la Mujer CIAM Cancún, A.C. (Cancún, Quintana Roo)
- Fundación Casa Alianza, I.A.P. (México City)
- Casa de las Mercedes, I.A.P. (México City)
- Alternativas Pacíficas, A.C. (Monterrey, Nuevo Leon).

PROTEJA's strategy to update the shelters' service models to address TIP victims' specific needs include providing financial and technical assistance through coordinated meetings, formal training, and one-on-one consultations. The staffs of the shelters attended regular meetings to

network and discuss challenges in service provision, received support with specific cases, and discussed shortcomings of the established referral mechanisms.

At each of the shelters, PROTEJA conducted training workshops throughout the year on basic TIP concepts, the application of international instruments to prosecute and penalize TIP and protect TIP victims, the national and state level judicial frameworks to prosecute TIP, and the tools available to provide assistance and protection to victims. Participants included psychologists, nurses, lawyers, and social workers from each shelter. In addition to training the staff of the shelters directly, PROTEJA worked to develop materials to enable the staff to educate their communities and other shelters about TIP and methods to detect and prevent it.

PROTEJA also assisted with the launch of criminal prosecutions for TIP violations on behalf of the shelters. PROTEJA has been able to offer legal advice to help trafficking victims in the shelters navigate the judicial process. In all cases, PROTEJA works to assist the shelters' efforts to coordinate with other relevant institutions, such as the Office of the Attorney General.

Finally, PROTEJA worked with the shelters at an administrative level. They advised them on better financial management and methods to maximize their resources.

As planned, on March 3, 2008, PROTEJA concluded its sub-grants program to the four shelters, and the program officially ended on May 15, 2008. Each of the shelters successfully completed all of the initially agreed-upon requirements of the program and has reported them accordingly.

The activities of the four shelters since May demonstrate that they are continuing to provide specialized services and assistance to TIP victims after the conclusion of the sub-grants program. The shelters continue to facilitate victims' recuperation, in particular helping them regain control over their lives, and assist them in procuring justice against their aggressors. Last quarter, the four shelters received and assisted 185 victims, the majority of whom had been exploited sexually or for labor, and often both. Most were minors. All of the victims received specialized services, including medical, psychological, social, and legal help. PROTEJA also continues to reinforce the work it has done with the shelters to ensure they remain sustainable. In particular, PROTEJA continues to advise the shelters on the administration of grants and on recordkeeping and reporting. PROTEJA also provides counsel in individual cases of TIP.

Last quarter, PROTEJA received a new sub-grant to assist the Camino a Casa Foundation, another shelter that receives TIP victims. The activities associated with this \$300,000 (Mexican pesos) grant are described below.

October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008:

Camino a Casa was chosen based on its record of bringing sound and consistent services to victims of crime and violence in Mexico. In addition, Camino a Casa is the only shelter in Mexico that specializes in assistance to minors who are victims of sexual exploitation.⁴ Camino

⁴ Camino a Casa has participated in bi-lateral programs, such as Puerta, in which the organization Concerned Women for America (CWFA) trains Mexican leaders to combat the child sexual exploitation industry.

a Casa uses an integrated approach to recovery, with the ultimate goal of successful reintegration to society.

Throughout the quarter, PROTEJA provided technical assistance to Camino a Casa. PROTEJA held three training sessions that included advice on reporting and forms for handling donations, channeling telephone calls to the appropriate authority or institution, and interviewing victims. In addition, PROTEJA presented three workshops on the identification of victims, protection, security, and confidentiality issues. Twenty-two individuals from Camino a Casa were educated in these events.

The five shelters (the four original plus Camino a Casa) have assisted a total of 519 TIP victims. Ninety percent of these victims were exploited either sexually or for labor, or both. The services provided to these victims of TIP include: 2,500 medical services; 914 social protection services; 700 mental health services; and 59 instances of legal advice and assistance (of which 14 victims brought formal legal action against their traffickers).

Call Center

One of the most successful strategies internationally for identifying and assisting victims of TIP is the establishment of a call center that administers a hotline dedicated to victims and reports of TIP-related activity. These call centers are often addressed by civil society organizations.

PROTEJA continued its discussions on the possibility of developing such a call center in Mexico. This quarter, it held meetings with Casa Alianza to discuss the possibility of implementing this service. Casa Alianza has broad experience assisting victims of TIP. It is one of the original four shelters that received funding from PROTEJA from May 2007 to May 2008. It uses successful models of caregiving and has assisted hundreds of victims of TIP, supporting them in an integrated fashion, often beyond their reintroduction to society. Casa Alianza's reputation in Mexico is excellent.

It is envisioned that the helpline will be available, at no cost, throughout Mexico, 24 hours a day. The operators will be able to assist victims with information on assistance and the closest centers for care, in addition to addressing their immediate emotional needs. Importantly, the call center will accept anonymous tips on TIP-related activity that will be passed to the appropriate authorities, creating a vital bridge between those who are assisting victims and the justice system.

Casa Alianza has begun the process of collecting donations for the project. The initial cost is estimated at \$50,000 USD. PROTEJA will continue to work with them to move the project forward.

Services Manual

PROTEJA has nearly completed work on a manual setting out guidelines for care to victims of TIP. The manual is intended to be a guide for professionals providing assistance that specifically addresses the needs of TIP victims. It includes a number of models of assistance to match the needs of a particular victim while maintaining an integrated and uniform approach to recovery. The manual, entitled "Initial Guidelines for Care to Victims," draws from the new federal anti-

TIP legislation and explains the fundamental rights of victims. The content of the document has been completed, and it is undergoing a style revision. A cover design for the publication is close to completion.

(Please refer to Table 3 at end of report for a list of meetings and events that PROTEJA attended or organized as part of its effort to strengthen local shelters and services.)

ANTI-TIP NETWORKS AND TASK FORCES

Introduction:

Because TIP often involves numerous and distinct criminal activities and men, women, and children are victims, addressing TIP requires a multi-faceted approach undertaken by multiple actors from a variety of disciplines. As a result, the formation of diverse task forces and networks at the local, state, and federal levels is crucial to effectively combat TIP and assist its victims.

PROTEJA has been promoting the creation of local-level TIP networks and task forces tailored to meet local needs and resources. It identifies potential members who might work well together and then unites them in workshops, meetings, and forums to collaborate. PROTEJA also provides technical assistance so that the members can effectively outline their collaboration, develop a work plan, and formalize agreements that will promote communication, coordination, and access to resources. PROTEJA's work developing these networks and task forces is one of the most important components of its effort to create a sustainable infrastructure to combat TIP.

When creating a task force or network, PROTEJA must consider including all service providers that may cater to TIP victims (e.g. migrant shelters, abused women and children shelters, domestic violence day shelters, outreach services, outreach to street children services, mainstream human rights organizations, workers rights organizations, HIV/AIDS service providers, and law enforcement,). Depending on the circumstances, the best arrangement may be a task force (shorter-term collaborations with specific goals) or an anti-TIP network (longer-term collaborations with more general goals, such as raising awareness and promoting societal change).

An important strategy that PROTEJA has pursued is the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with state governments. PROTEJA signed MOUs with the governments of three states: Morelos, Nayarit, and Quintana Roo. In each state, PROTEJA made a presentation on TIP and how future task forces would be developed and implemented. With these agreements now in place, PROTEJA is able to move forward with its efforts to officially coordinate the numerous government agencies and their efforts to combat TIP.

PROTEJA is also working directly as a member of the new federal level anti-TIP task force developed pursuant to the new federal anti-TIP law.

PROTEJA has begun to see the fruits of its efforts. Many organizations are meeting regularly to coordinate their efforts to combat TIP and assist its victims. In addition, PROTEJA has been

directly involved with several rescue operations. These operations have been conducted in a coordinated manner which did not previously exist. All the parties involved, from the beginning (the investigation and/or rescue) to the end (prosecution and/or the victim being reintroduced to society), worked together and communicated well. This has resulted in the needs of the victims being addressed in a more effective manner and in greater success in bringing the criminals to justice.

October 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008:

PROTEJA took advantage of the various forums held on TIP this quarter, both national and international, to organize working groups and set up agreements for potential future collaboration between organizations. The forums demonstrated the desire and benefits of coordination, how Mexico is advancing in this regard, and what more can be done.

In the area of training, PROTEJA offered three workshops specifically related to the formation of task forces. More than 120 individuals attended, primarily directors of civil society organizations.

The National Forum on Human Trafficking and Conflict Transformation, as well as both of the events related to the detection of cases of trafficking victims in Mexico, make up the three workshops within the task forces component. The benefit of these activities was that they strengthened the relations of many NGOs and enabled them to work actively together. Additionally, the workshops have helped strengthen prevention activities, care provision and the development of public policies in the area of human trafficking.

PROTEJA also agreed to advise the first specialized state unit that works to combat TIP. This unit, the Victims Assistance Unit in Chihuahua, is being implemented by the state's Attorney General. PROTEJA will support the unit in any way feasible.

During the quarter, PROTEJA continued to hold numerous meetings with a broad range of governmental and non-governmental organizations.⁵ These meetings serve to encourage task force participation and the coordination of resources among the various entities that all work to combat TIP throughout Mexico.

In three operations this quarter, nine victims of TIP were rescued. PROTEJA helped ensure that the various actors in the operations were working together effectively and provided technical assistance by accompanying the victims and advising the shelters as to the care they needed.

⁵ These organizations include: the United Nations High Commission for Refugees; International Organization for Migration; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Office of the Special Prosecutor for Violent Crimes Against Women and Trafficking in Persons; Offices of the Attorneys General from Guerrero, Puebla, Chihuahua, Quintana Roo; System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF); Daywalka; Infancia Comun; Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes; Frontera con Justicia; Alberque del Desierto; Centro de DDHH Tepeyac del Istmo de Tehuantepec; Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos; Casa Alianza; Melel Xojobal; Coalicion Binacional; Casa de las Mercedes; and Alternativas Pacificas.

(Please refer to Table 4 at end of report for a list of meetings and events that PROTEJA attended or organized as part of its effort to support the formation of networks, task forces and other types of collaboration.)

CONCLUSION

While continuing to raise awareness across Mexico via forums and training public officials regarding TIP in general, victim identification, and the detection of TIP practices, PROTEJA made a number of other noteworthy accomplishments this quarter.

First, with Oaxaca's approval of comprehensive anti-TIP legislation, PROTEJA surpassed its goal of seeing six states enact the legislation. With this momentum, and the near completion of both its comparative legislative analysis and the legislative guide that will assist those seeking comprehensive legislation, PROTEJA has every confidence that more and more states will follow course.

Another significant event of the quarter was the completion of the short film on TIP, "The Exploitation of the XXI Century: Trafficking in Persons." By employing the greatest variety of appropriate media to reach the broadest audiences, PROTEJA can educate a far greater spectrum of the population, including potential victims, witnesses, perpetrators, and those in a position to assist in the fight against TIP. The film's premier next quarter is greatly anticipated.

PROTEJA continues to see its prior efforts to build the capacity of the shelters yield results. This quarter's addition of Camino a Casa as a sub-grant recipient will further ensure the sustainability of the programs PROTEJA has supported to assist victims of TIP. Next quarter will see the services manual published and disseminated, which will make PROTEJA's approach to assisting TIP victims available nationwide. PROTEJA is also very hopeful that the call center will become a reality, offering service to TIP victims in every part of the country.

PROTEJA is seeing its work to coordinate the efforts of various non-governmental organizations and public institutions pay off. These organizations are meeting more often and beginning to make regular and meaningful efforts at coordination.

The work of PROTEJA and others in the last two-and-a-half years to bring more attention to TIP in Mexico has clearly paved the way for greater focus on the issue, its victims, and the demand for justice for this heinous crime. While much remains to be done, a solid foundation has been laid. One by-product of PROTEJA's work in Mexico, however, is the realization that the magnitude of TIP in Mexico is greater than first imagined. It is hopeful that with the continued efforts of PROTEJA and others, the tide will soon turn and Mexico will no longer serve as a major destination, place of transit, or source for human trafficking.

Finally, PROTEJA will close out all activities by March 31, 2009. Some activities that will be carried out in the final quarter of the project are the following:

- January 8-9, Workshop on Human Trafficking for the Oaxaca DIF;

- January 11-12, Workshop on Human Trafficking for the Commission on Human Rights;
- January 26-27, Workshop on Human Trafficking for the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights;
- February 9, Course on Human Trafficking for the Secretary of Public Safety;
- February 3-4, Course on Human Trafficking for the staff of the Oaxaca DIF;
- February 12, Course on Human Trafficking for the staff of the Secretary of Indigenous Affairs;
- February 17, Short Film Launch, *The Exploitation of the XXI Century: Trafficking in Persons*; and
- March 12, Presentation of the Manual, Mexican Penal Law on Human Trafficking.

G-TIP REPORT

Victim Identification and Referral Protocols: Tools and Techniques for Detecting, Identifying and Referring Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Mexico

October - December 2008

Introduction

The following report summarizes PROTEJA's activities on "Victim Identification and Referral Protocols: Tools and Techniques for Detecting, Identifying, and Referring Victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Mexico." These activities were carried out pursuant to PROTEJA's expanded Scope of Work and are reported here separately.

Background

One of PROTEJA's most important activities since 2007 has been hosting workshops and seminars on the conceptual and judicial framework needed to facilitate the detection and identification of victims of TIP in Mexico. The programs have been developed in conjunction with the National Migration Institute (INM), the Office of the Attorney General (PGR), the National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH), and numerous non-governmental organizations working on TIP. These events were targeted to committees and inter-institutional groups selected by the above-mentioned organizations. To date, PROTEJA has hosted fourteen of these events.

The objective of these seminars and workshops is to strengthen government capacity to detect and identify probable victims of human trafficking in Mexico. Specifically, PROTEJA wants the participants to: (1) have a broad understanding of how TIP occurs; (2) learn the tools to detect and identify victims of TIP, using a global perspective; and (3) learn how to adapt the tools and methodologies presented in the workshops to their particular circumstances. The programs use a mixture of short presentations, group discussions, group exercises, and case studies. The events offer the opportunity for those who specialize in the prevention and detection of TIP to share their knowledge and experience with others. Each of the fourteen workshops addressed between 35-140 participants and was held over between one and five days.

In each instance, staff held numerous meetings with federal authorities and organization leaders to plan and develop the programs, giving special consideration to the needs of each audience. PROTEJA was responsible for all logistics: organizing the travel plans of the speakers; acting as the speakers' hosts; and designing the content of each seminar, as well as the inaugurations and closing ceremonies. In addition, staff developed the materials distributed to the participants, including a CD-ROM which contains relevant national and international documents relating to TIP. PROTEJA contracted Dr. Lourdes Barboza, an expert in TIP from Paraguay, to facilitate many of the events.

October – December 2008 Activities

This quarter, PROTEJA met with the federal Office of the Attorney General and several state Attorneys General to plan and design more TIP events. PROTEJA and the Attorneys General decided upon a total of seven 2-3 day seminars and training workshops similar to the previous fourteen. The programs were held in five different sites throughout Mexico, including three in

the Federal District (Mexico City), two in Baja California, one in Quintana Roo, and one in Jalisco.

As with the previous activities, PROTEJA met with the authorities from each organization several times to plan the event and tailor the material for the audience. Because of the short time-frame to plan these events, the audience was limited to representatives from the institutions themselves. A sample agenda is included in this report as Attachment A.

PROTEJA recruited the following international experts to present at the seminars:

- Dmitri Senmache Artola, an expert in child sexual exploitation in Peru;
- Dr. Elias Escaff Silva, a lawyer who specializes in assisting victims in Chile;
- Jennifer Dreher and Leana Fohr, specialists in case management of victims in the United States;
- Diana Cano, a specialist in assisting victims of TIP in Colombia;
- Ana María Estévez, a specialist from Spain in the identification of female victims of TIP and its reoccurrence; and
- Marineta Cannito, a specialist in the identification of victims and potential victims of TIP from the United States.

In addition to the international experts, PROTEJA invited experts from the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Women and Trafficking (FEVIMTRA) and from several universities, as well as resident experts. They provided invaluable insight into the issues regarding TIP and its victims, both worldwide and in Mexico.

The lead federal representatives at the seminars from the Office of the Attorney General were:

- Guadalupe Morfín Otero, Special Prosecutor for Violence Against Women and Trafficking (FEVIMTRA), and
- Lucila Guerra, Director General of Professional Development.

The lead local representatives from the state Offices of Attorneys General were:

- Raul Cantu Hernandez, the Victim Assistance Advisor Coordinator in the Office of the Attorney General, Federal District, and
- María López Urbina, head of the state office of the Victims Assistance Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, Baja California.

In all, the seven seminars were attended by 408 participants. The location of each event and the number of participants of each seminar is listed below:

Location of Seminar	Institution	# of Participants
México, Federal District (3)	Office of the Attorney General, Federal District	173 (total for 3 programs)
Mexicali, Baja California	Office of the Attorney General, Baja California	97
Ensenada, Baja California	Office of the Attorney General, Baja California	97
Cancún, Quintana Roo	Office of the Attorney General (federal)	12
Guadalajara, Jalisco	Office of the Attorney General (federal)	29
TOTAL		408

Because all of the programs were limited to representatives from the offices to which the programs were directed, there was no media coverage of these events.

(Please refer to Table 5 at end of report for a list of the seminars and their dates and locations organized as part of PROTEJA's effort to develop Victim Identification and Detection of TIP.)

TABLE 1 – PROTEJA TIP ACTIVITIES: PUBLIC AWARENESS COMPONENT

Date	Participants/Organization	Theme/Activity	Estados	State
10/9-10/08	Nongovernmental Organizations	Workshop on detection and identification of TIP	Chihuahua	
10/20/08	National Migration Institute/ National Migration Week	Training on TIP	Chihuahua	
10/21-22/08	National Migration Institute/ National Migration Week	Training on TIP	Quintana Roo	
10/23-24/08	Office of the State Attorney General	Workshop on the detection and identification of TIP	Federal District	
10/23-24/08	Numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations, including: National Commission on Human Rights; National Institute of Migration; National Institute of Women; Secretary of Foreign Relations; Special Prosecutor for Violent Crimes Against Women and Trafficking; Secretary of Public Education; Secretary of Tourism; Attorneys General of numerous states; state Commissions of Human Rights; Secretary of Health; and the Congress of the state of Mexico	Bi-national forum on TIP	State of Mexico	
10/30-31/08	National Migration Institute	Talk on trafficking and migration	Queretaro	
10/30-31/08	General public	Forum on sexual exploitation	Sonora	
10/31 to 12/6 /08	Office of the Attorney General, Center for Investigation and National Security (CISEN); Center for Analysis and Information to Combat Crime (CENAPI), Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Women (FEVIMTRA)	Course on the procurement of justice and human rights	Federal District	
11/3-5/08	Office of the state Attorney General	Workshop on the detection and identification of TIP	Baja California	

Date	Participants/Organization	Theme/Activity	Estados State
11/3/08	Secretary of Public Security and the Office of the Attorney General	Training regarding basic aspects of TIP	Federal District
11/4-7/08	National Migration Institute	Course on the identification of cases of TIP	Morelos
11/6-7/08	Office of the state Attorney General	Detection and identification of cases of TIP	Baja California
11/12/08	Public	Seminar on TIP	Campeche
11/17-18/08	Office of the state Attorney General	Course on the detection and identification of TIP	Quintana Roo
11/24-25/08	Office of the state Attorney General	Course on the detection and identification of TIP	Guadalajara
12/15-17/08	Office of the Attorney General	1 st Latin American Forum on TIP	Federal District

TABLE 2 – PROTEJA TIP ACTIVITIES: LEGISLATIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENT

Date	Participants /Organization	Theme/ Activity	State
10/6/08	Congressmen of the state of Morelos and advisors to the Governor	Telephone conference with state congressional representatives on changes to the anti-TIP initiative and seeking coordination with the governor’s advisors	Federal District
10/15-17/08	Oaxacan Congress	Working meetings with Rep. Jaime Aranda on the anti-TIP legislative initiative	Federal District
10/27-28/08	Supreme Court of the state of Mexico	Training workshop for judges and public ministers on new anti-TIP legislation	State of Mexico
11/3/08	U.S. Department of Justice and Mexican Office of the Attorney General	Conference on Mexican anti-TIP legislation and its application within the judicial framework	Federal District
12/09/08	Integral Family Development Center (DIF)	Forum on TIP and the newly approved anti-TIP legislation	Oaxaca

TABLE 3 – PROTEJA TIP ACTIVITIES: SHELTER CAPACITY BUILDING COMPONENT

Date	Participants /Organization	Theme/ Activity	State
10/8/08	Camino a Casa Foundation	Course on Agreements of Donations	Federal District
10/9-10/08	Casa de las Mercedes, Casa Alianza, and Camino a Casa Foundation	Workshop regarding detection and identification	Chihuahua
11/5/08	Casa Alianza	Advisement on a trafficking case	Federal District
11/10/08	Camino a Casa Foundation	Technical assistance course on the delivery of results	Federal District
11/26/08	Camino a Casa Foundation	Advising on the delivery of results 1 and 2	Federal District
12/5-6/08	Various non-governmental organizations	Seminar on TIP and conflict resolution	Federal District

TABLE 4 – PROTEJA TIP ACTIVITIES: ANTI-TIP NETWORKS AND TASK FORCES COMPONENT

Date	Participants/ Organization	Theme/Activity	State
10/30-31/08	Numerous non-governmental organizations, including: International Organization for Migration; Office of the Special Prosecutor for Violent Crimes Against Women and Trafficking in Persons- federal and Chihuahua; Office of the Attorney General from Baja California; Daywalka; Infancia Comun; Casa Alianza; Coalicion Binacional; National Network of Shelters; Caritas; Camino a Casa Foundation; and the National Commission on Human Rights	TIP and the new criminal justice system	Chihuahua
12/5-6/08	Numerous non-governmental organizations, including: International Organization for Migration; Daywalka; Infancia Comun; Servicio Jesuita a Migrantes; Frontera con Justicia; Alberque del Desierto; Centro DDHH Fray Matias de Cordoba; Centro Fray Julian Garces; Centro de DDHH Tepeyac del Istmo de Tehuantepec; Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos; Casa Alianza; Melel Xojobal; Coalicion Binacional; Casa de las Mercedes; Alterativas Pacificas; and Organizacion International de las Migraciones	National forum for civil organizations combating TIP	Federal District

ATTACHMENT A: AGENDA FROM WORKSHOP ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Course-Workshop

“Trafficking in Persons: International, National and State-level Judicial Frameworks to Combat and Sanction Trafficking in Persons” State of Mexico

Dates: 27th and 28th of October, 2008

Venue: Judicial Power of the State of Mexico

Recipients: Ministerial Agents, Judges and Magistrates.

● **GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** Provide the participants with theoretical and practical knowledge that exists for trafficking in persons inside the field of international and state juridical-normative frameworks, with the purpose of supporting their work inside the Acquisition and Administration of Justice system.

● **DURATION:** The Workshop has a duration of one day and a half.

● **NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 50 people maximum.

● **METHODOLOGY:** The Workshop will use a mix of short presentations, group discussions, group exercises, case studies and simulations. It will be given by specialists from Peru, Chile, Spain, Colombia, Italy and the State of Mexico.

TOPICS

Monday 27th of October, 2008

Beginning: 9:00 hours

Conclusion: 18:30 hours

MODULE I. BASIC CONCEPTS

Objective: Know the basic aspects of causes, characteristics and classification of Trafficking in Persons and the new issues that have emerged as consequence of the current trends in the subject.

Duration: 3 hrs

Topics:

1. Definition

2. Elements integrated in the definition
3. Trafficking in persons modalities
4. Problem magnitude
5. Differences with other crimes
6. Who are the victims
7. Who are the victimizers

MODULE II. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL JURIDICAL FRAMEWORKS IN THE FIELD OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Objective: Communicate to participants the international instruments related to the subject and the minimum criteria established by these to prevent and sanction trafficking in persons, as well as current valid legislation at the national and state levels.

Duration: 1:40 hours

Topics:

1. International Agreements as the Supreme Law of the Nation
2. Evolution of the Trafficking in Persons concept in international instruments
3. The protocol to prevent, repress and sanction Trafficking in Persons, specially that of women and children, that complements the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
4. References to the current valid federal legislation
 - a. Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico
 - b. Federal Penal Code
 - c. Law to prevent and sanction Trafficking in persons
 - d. Other rulings
5. Local reforms in the subject of trafficking in persons
 - a. Local Legislation status in the subject of Trafficking in Persons
 - b. Local examples
 - c. Related crimes that must be reformulated
6. Trafficking in minors
7. Consent in the crime of Trafficking in Persons

MÓDULO III. REFORM TO THE PENAL CODE OF THE STATE OF MEXICO

Objective: Teach and analyze the Reform to the Penal Code of the State of Mexico published on the 29th of December, 2007.

Duration: 3 hours

Topics:

1. General perspective on the content of the Reform
2. Juridical good protection and penal type elements
3. Trafficking in minors
4. Sanctions
5. Consent
6. Penal type elements
7. Penal type Reforms Content
 - i. Corruption of minors
 - ii. Prostitution
 - iii. Child Pornography
8. New penal types
 - i. Use of minors' images for pornography
 - ii. Remunerated sexual intercourse with minors

Tuesday 28th of October, 2008

Beginning: 9:00 hours

Conclusion: 18:30 hours

MODULE IV. IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Objective: Provide the necessary tools to detect and identify victims of trafficking in persons and victims from other related crimes.

Duration: 4 hours

Topics:

1. The importance of the community in identifying victims and possible victims
Presenter: Marinetta Cannito
2. Identification of Female victims of trafficking in persons and their institutional re-victimization
Presenter: Ana María Estévez
Association for the prevention, reintegration and care for the prostituted woman
3. Detection and steps to follow for its implementation
 - a. High probability suspicion
 - Training
 - Transfer
 - Reception
 - Exploitation
 - b. Identification
 - c. Confirmation and evaluation

4. Probability Indicators for Trafficking in Persons
 - Visual recognition
 - Presence of Physical Indicators
 - Presence of Psycho-social Indicators
 - Proof
 - External Exams
 - Internal Exams
5. Practical Case

MODULE V. CARE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.: EXPERIENCES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

Objectives: Impart experiences from other countries related to care and protection for victims of trafficking in persons, as well as mechanisms to prevent institutional re-victimization.

Duration: 4 hours

1. The Chilean experience in the creation and management of Regional Attention Units for Victims and Witnesses (URAVIT)
Presenter: Dr. Elías Escaff
Chilean Victimologist, Lecturer from the University of Chile, Former Director of Chile’s Criminology Institute.
2. The experience of organized civil society in the follow-up of cases of victims of trafficking in persons (case management) in the United States.
Presenters: Jennifer Dreher and Ileana Fohr
Save Horizons, USA
3. The Colombian experience in attention for victims of trafficking in persons
Presenter: Diana Cano
Esperanza Foundation, Colombia
4. Peruvian experience in the protection of children from trafficking in persons and its modalities, particularly pornography
Presenter: Dmitri Senmache
Peruvian Network Against Child Pornography

SCHEDULES

MONDAY 27TH OF OCTOBER, 2008

Module I	Basic Concepts	Definition Elements of the definition Trafficking in persons modalities Problem magnitude Differences with other crimes Who are the victims Who are the victimizers	9:00 to 12:00
Recess 12:00 to 12:20			
Module II	International and national juridical framework in the subject of trafficking in persons	The international agreements as the Supreme Law of the Nation Evolution of the trafficking in persons concept in international instruments International Agreements as the Supreme Law of the Nation Evolution of the Trafficking in Persons concept in the international instruments The Protocol to prevent, repress and sanction Trafficking in Persons References to the current valid federal legislation Local reforms in the subject of trafficking in persons Trafficking in persons of minors	12:20 to 14:00
Lunch 14:00 to 15:30			
Module III	Reform to the Penal Code of the State of Mexico	General perspective on the content of the Reform Juridical good protection and penal type elements Trafficking in persons of minors Sanctions Consent Penal type elements Penal type Reforms Content New penal types	15:30 to 18:30

TUESDAY 28TH OF OCTOBER, 2008

Module IV	Identification of victims from trafficking in persons	The importance of the community in identifying victims and possible victims Presenter: Marinetta Cannito	9:00 to 9:40
		Identification of Female victims from trafficking in persons and their institutional re-victimization	9:40 to 10:20
		Detection and the previous steps for its implementation	10:20 to 11:20
Recess 11:20 to 11:40			
Module IV	Identification of victims from trafficking in persons	Probability Indicators from trafficking in persons	11:40 to 12:20
		Practical Case	12:20 to 12:50
Recess 12:50 to 13:00			
Module V	Attention to Victims of Trafficking in Persons. Experiences in other countries	The Chilean experience in the creation and management of Regional Attention Units for Victims and Witnesses	13:00 to 14:00
Lunch 14:00 to 15:00			
Module V	Attention for victims of trafficking in persons Experiences in other countries	The experience of organized civil society in the follow-up of cases from victims of trafficking in persons (Case management) in the United States.	15:00 to 16:30
		Peruvian experience in the protection of children from trafficking in persons and its modalities, particularly pornography	16:30 to 17:30
		The Colombian experience in attention for victims of trafficking in persons	17:30 to 18:30

ATTACHMENT B: SAMPLES OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

La Cronica de Hoy – Narcotráfico se financia con trata de personas en México. September 28, 2008.
http://www.cronica.com.mx/nota.php?id_notas=387857

Narcotráfico se financia con trata de personas en México

MARIANA VIAYRA EN OAXACA |
NACIONAL

Domingo 28 de Sep., 2008 | Hora de creación: 00:00 | Última modificación: 01:42

El narcotráfico a nivel mundial se financia también de las redes de trata de personas y en México no es la excepción, afirmó Gabriela Saavedra, directora del Programa de Apoyo para Víctimas de Trata de Personas en México (Proteja), organización auspiciada por la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional.

“Se sabe que la trata de personas es el tercer negocio ilícito con mayor ganancia en el mundo y es el tercero porque hoy las redes del narcotráfico están utilizando las mismas rutas por donde pasan al igual drogas y personas”, apuntó la investigadora del Instituto de Ciencias Penales.

Indicó que a escala internacional la trata de personas es uno de los mecanismos de financiamiento del narco. “La trata funciona a través de una red internacional, es decir, no son redes locales, sino internacionales que viajan por todo el mundo y cruzan fronteras, por lo tanto, si sucede en un país puede suceder también en el nuestro”.

La investigadora y colaboradora del Programa de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) puntualizó que el delito de trata de personas se tipificó hace un año, pero las víctimas siguen indefensas por la confusión que existe en los términos jurídicos, y en algunos estados es letra muerta.

Ejemplificó que el lenocinio está en el capítulo de moral pública en el marco jurídico de algunos estados, “y la trata no es un delito contra la moral pública, sino contra la víctima”.

La experta en la materia agregó que se busca eliminar de algunos códigos palabras como prostitución infantil, pues “es un término muy mal utilizado porque los niños no se prostituyen, son víctimas y al decirles prostitutos les dejamos a ellos la responsabilidad de lo que les pasa; ellos no eligen estar ahí, son explotados”.

También señaló que en la mayoría de los casos los códigos penales sólo sancionan al tratante o a los mediadores, pero no se castiga al cliente o consumidor (quien paga por tener relaciones sexuales con menores) de la explotación.

En conferencia de prensa, reveló que cada vez más se buscan a niñas y niños más pequeños para explotarlos sexualmente; antes eran de 14 años, ahora son entre los 10 y 12 años de edad.

El Universal – Alistan Foro Internacional sobre Trata de Personas. October 21, 2008.
<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/548860.html>

Alistan Foro Internacional sobre Trata de Personas

El objetivo del encuentro es buscar alternativas de solución y prevención, así como mejorar las normas jurídicas contra el delito de trata de personas

NOTIMEX
EL UNIVERSAL
TOLUCA, EDOMEX MARTES 21 DE OCTUBRE DE 2008
13:33

A

La Comisión de Procuración y Administración de Justicia, que preside el diputado panista Carlos Alberto Pérez Cuevas, organiza el foro en coordinación con la Agencia de los Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID) y el Programa de Apoyo a Víctimas de Trata de Personas en México (Proteja) .

El jueves 23, la titular de la Subprocuraduría de Investigación Especializada en Delincuencia Organizada (SIEDO) , Marisela Morales Ibáñez, ofrecerá una conferencia magistral.

El mismo día participarán Gabriela Saavedra, directora del Programa de Apoyo a Víctimas de Trata de Personas en México; Dimitri N. Senmache, integrante de la Red Peruana contra la Pornografía Infantil; y Carolina Mateos, oficial asociada de Protección del Alto Comisionado de Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR) .

También Diego Lorente, director general de Sin Fronteras I.A.P; Yuriria Álvarez Madrid, coordinadora de Asesoría Técnica Legislativa de Proteja-USAID; y Ana María Estévez, de la Asociación para la Prevención, Reinserción y Atención de la mujer Prostituida, de España.

Además asistirán Marinetta Cannito, profesora sobre transformación de conflictos y justicia restaurativa de Italia; Diana Cano, de la Fundación Esperanza de Colombia, y David Castañeda, coordinador de Task Force Proteja-USAID, entre otras personalidades

En el foro se abordarán temas como: Combate a la delincuencia organizada y la trata de personas en México; Aspectos fundamentales para comprender la trata de personas; La trata de personas en el ámbito internacional; Migración, asilo y trata de personas.

Asimismo la reforma penal para combatir y sancionar la trata de personas en el estado de México: las Reformas al Código Penal; y Mujeres víctimas de trata de personas con fines de explotación sexual, entre otros.

El viernes 24 se prevé la participación de los conferencistas y panelistas Sadot Sánchez Carreño, director del Programa contra la Trata de Personas de la Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos.
Sigue

Entre los temas a tratar destacan: Ley para prevenir y sancionar la trata de personas; Estrategias de investigación y persecución en casos de trata de personas; Trata de personas y utilización de imágenes de personas menores de edad para pornografía.

La trata de personas en México y los modelos de atención a las víctimas desde la sociedad civil; La experiencia chilena en la atención a víctimas de delitos violentos; Atención integral a víctimas de trata de personas; y La coordinación necesaria para el combate efectivo e integral contra la trata de personas.

La convocatoria está abierta y dirigida a personal de los sectores de procuración y administración de justicia y áreas de seguridad de los tres niveles de gobierno.

Asimismo a dependencias encargadas del desarrollo social, laboral, género y derechos humanos.

PGR contra trata de blancas



Los seres humanos no son mercancías ni esclavos y serán sancionados quienes, con sus actos y omisiones, se han atrevido o se atreven a ignorarlo, señala la Fiscal especial María Guadalupe Morfín

CANCÚN, Q.ROO

REDACCIÓN

El combate y erradicación de la trata de personas es una causa de vida por la paz y la justicia del Estado Mexicano, por lo que todas las instancias de gobierno que participan en la atención de este ilícito están comprometidas a hacerlo desde una perspectiva integral, aseguró este lunes (ayer) María Guadalupe Morfín, Fiscal Especial para los Delitos de Violencia contra las mujeres y Trata de Personas (FEVIMTRA). Por ello, agregó la fiscal, desde que inició la Administración del Presidente Felipe Calderón se ha puesto el énfasis en preservar la igualdad y proteger la integridad y libertad de las personas como lo establecen los acuerdos internacionales suscritos por México. La titular de la FEVIMTRA dijo lo anterior durante la inauguración del Primer Foro Latinoamericano de Trata de Personas y Procuración de Justicia, en el que participan 10 naciones del Continente.

En contraparte, en Quintana Roo, la indiferencia de la delegación de la Procuraduría General de la República (PGR), a cargo de Nicolás Hernández Mendoza, para atender y dar respuesta a los reclamos de la sociedad ante el crecimiento de la delincuencia no sólo en Cancún sino en todo el Estado, ha sido el común denominador de dicha dependencia federal, refiere el diario Por Esto! en reciente edición.

En ese tenor señala que, al menos, con los anteriores delegados, Miguel Ángel Hernández Castellón (hoy sujeto a proceso en el Cereso de Mérida por el asunto de las narcoejecuciones del 2004), la corta etapa de Imelda Calvillo Tello y la de Pedro Ramírez Violante, la apertura para la información era mucho más accesible, aún cuando las declaraciones eran en el sentido de que se estaba investigando o trabajando en el caso.

Sin embargo, a la llegada de Nicolás Hernández Mendoza, tal pareciera que la dependencia se encuentra acéfala y su delegado sólo se encuentra detrás de su escritorio y acude a los llamados de eventos "importantes" donde su presencia sea importante para salir en las fotos.

En el caso más reciente donde la PGR se ha mostrado indiferente, destaca la edición de Septiembre 1 de 2008 del diario La Jornada, es sobre el desconocimiento de autoridades ministeriales y policiacas mexicanas del marco jurídico que ha permitido que queden impunes la mayoría de casos de explotación sexual, trata de blancas y pederastia que se cometen en el país, afirmó Sadot Sánchez Carreño, director del Programa contra la Trata de Personas de la Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH).

Precisa, que un ejemplo de lo anterior, es el caso ocurrido en Cancún, Quintana Roo, donde quedó sin sanción penal el argentino Raúl Luis Martins Coggola --presunto ex colaborador de la dictadura de su país-- quien controlaba aquí una red de prostitución. De hecho, trascendió que pudo regresar a Argentina pese a que enfrentó diversos cargos penales por corrupción de menores en el centro nocturno The One. Menciona aparte merecen las recurrentes denuncias hechas por la periodista y fundadora del CIAM (Centro Integral de Atención a Menores y Mujeres) Lydia Cacho sobre el turismo sexual que mantiene alarmantes índices en este destino.

EXPERIENCIA INTERNACIONAL

Este encuentro internacional tiene por objeto conocer las experiencias internacionales en materia de trata de personas y la atención a las víctimas de este ilícito bajo un enfoque global y regional.

Morfín Otero explicó que el delito de trata de personas no es exclusivo de las grandes urbes, ni de las ciudades más conflictivas, como tampoco de los países más pobres; sino de aquellas naciones donde se hacen presentes la desigualdad, el ejercicio abusivo del poder, la indiferencia social, la impunidad y la falta de interés para hacer frente a fenómenos delictivos que tienen en los más vulnerables a la presa ideal.

En el caso de México, señaló que existe el compromiso por combatir este delito como lo demuestra la suscripción de la Convención de Palermo y su Protocolo, así como la Ley para Prevenir y Sancionar la Trata de Personas entre muchas acciones encaminadas a erradicar este ilícito.

Bajo esta lógica, el Gobierno de México, la PGR y la FEVIMTRA trabajan de manera coordinada para concertar y cumplir alianzas entre los tres órdenes de Gobierno, instituciones y organismos internacionales, así como entre naciones para que las acciones de procuración de justicia, atención a víctimas y prevención de este delito sean exitosas.

Quien se atreva a romper la confianza construida con un actuar ilegítimo, sepa que no quedará impune, "los seres humanos no son mercancías ni esclavos y serán sancionados quienes, con sus actos y omisiones, se han atrevido o en adelante se atreven a ignorarlo, afectando con ello el bienestar de miles de seres humanos y por tanto, perturbando el desarrollo de nuestro país, de toda América Latina y del Mundo", aseguró Morfín Otero.

Por su parte la Maestra Marisela Morales Ibáñez, Subprocuradora de Investigación Especializada en Delincuencia Organizada (SIEDO), ante la presencia de representantes de los países de Argentina, Belice, Ecuador, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá y Perú, dijo que el delito de trata de personas es un delito transnacional y que sólo con la colaboración de todos se logran los resultados que se requieren, para tener una sociedad más justa con los más desprotegidos.

Al inaugurar dicho Foro, agregó que la trata de personas es una figura delictiva que atenta integralmente contra el más elemental derecho del ser humano, que es la dignidad, añadió que es un fenómeno que debe frenarse de manera globalizada, ya que afecta a seres humanos sin importar su nacionalidad, y como responsables de aplicar la ley no se puede permitir.

Durante su participación, la Maestra Gabriela Saavedra García, Directora del Programa de Apoyo para Víctimas de Trata de Personas en México, señaló que para el gobierno de Estados Unidos de América es un compromiso fortalecer las estrategias que permitan el combate lateral y continua hacia la trata de personas, "compromiso únicamente equiparable para la atención y protección a las víctimas de este delito".

Los especialistas de estos países desarrollarán los trabajos de este Primer Foro Latinoamericano de Trata de Personas y Procuración de Justicia con base en los siguientes ejes temáticos: Homologación de conceptos; Protocolos internacionales en persecución y atención a víctimas de trata de personas, Migración, seguridad, Estrategias de investigación y persecución del delito de trata de personas.