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**DHS Open Source Enterprise
Daily Human Trafficking and Smuggling Report
3 January 2012**

NATIONAL:

- **Texas Authorities Bust Human Smuggling Operation:** Texas authorities reportedly busted a human trafficking operation at a home in San Antonio early Monday morning. Officials said they were originally called out to investigate suspicious vehicles parked in front of the house. When police entered the home, they said they found 20 suspected illegal immigrants lying on the floor. There were 17 men and three women. They also found \$3,000 in cash. Reports also say there was no water or electricity in the house. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents took the victims into custody and arrested the two suspects. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 2 January 2011; Source: http://www.the33tv.com/news/kdaf-human-smuggling-busted-in-san-antonio_0_3657811.story]

INTERNATIONAL:

- **Immigration Dept Admits On Illegal Lags Syndicate [Malawi]:** Malawi's Immigration Department has come out in the open and admitted that it is indeed harboring an organized criminal syndicate that has been aiding illegal immigrants and human trafficking into the country. The development comes barely a day after Malawi Police chief Inspector General Peter Mukhito accused the department of aiding the foreigners into the country. Immigration Department Public Relations Officer, Peter Kakatera, also confirmed that one of their officers working at Kamuzu International Airport (KIA) in the capital Lilongwe was under police custody in relation to the issue. The officer was arrested by police a few days after he was suspected to have played a role in aiding 10 Bangladesh nationals enter the country illegally. ... Of late there has been a sharp increase in the number of foreigners particularly from East Africa entering the country illegally. Most of them have been using unchartered routes such as through Lake Malawi, tankers, containers, among others. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 3 January 2012; Source: <http://www.nyasatimes.com/malawi/2012/01/03/immigration-dept-admits-on-illegal-lags-syndicate/>]
- **[UPDATE] Human Trafficking: FIA To Probe Fake Visa Case Involving British Council [Pakistan]:** The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has constituted a committee to probe into a human trafficking case allegedly involving various officials of the British Council Pakistan, officials revealed. A case of human trafficking surfaced in the British Council Karachi office when an official of the council awarded fake visa recommendation letters to various teachers and students who wanted to travel to the UK under the scheme "Connecting Classrooms" last year, they added. "The majority of applicants belonged to Balochistan and Sindh," sources said. Connecting Classrooms is a global program that creates partnerships between clusters of schools in the UK and others countries around the world including Pakistan. "We have constituted a committee to investigate the matter," said Karachi Additional Director Anti Human Smuggling Cell Azad Khan. ... Meanwhile, an investigator revealed that Connecting Classrooms Project Manager Azhar Rafi had issued fake visa letters to Pakistani citizens under the scheme. Rafi was dealing with the visa letters at the BHC in Pakistan as well as the United Kingdom Bordering Agency (UKBA) to facilitate the clients, the investigator added. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 3 January 2012; Source: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/315761/human-trafficking-fia-to-probe-fake-visa-case-involving-british-council/>]

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- **One Arrested For Being Involved In Human Trafficking [India]:** One person was arrested for allegedly being involved in human trafficking from here and four children rescued from his possession, police said here today. Shamsher Ali, a native of Hoogli in West Bengal, was arrested from Lucknow-Varanasi express at Charbagh railway station by Government Railway Police dressed up as a sadhu late last evening, they said. Police said that four children Laxman (8), Rinku (10), Harikesj (11) and Kanchan, all residents of Bakuliyapur village in Ghazipur, were recovered from his possession. During interrogation, Shamsher revealed that he had lured the children and was taking them to Delhi either to sell them or push them into begging, they said. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 3 January 2012; Source: <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/one-arrested-for-being-involved-in-human-trafficking/945593.html>]
- **Human Trafficking Cases In Dubai Down By 50% In 2011 [United Arab Emirates]:** The number of human trafficking cases recorded in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) declined by nearly 50 percent in 2011, a report of Emirates 24/7 said. Citing figures from the general administration for human rights, the report said Asian girls were the main victims of human trafficking last year. Human trafficking is the illegal trade in human beings for forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. In 2011, UAE had 16 human trade cases, involving 48 defendants and 32 female victims, the report said. In 2010, 35 cases were recorded, involving 109 defendants and 76 female victims, the report added. According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), there are around 200,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in UAE as of 2010. According to Emirates 24/7, cases of forced prostitution topped the list of human trafficking cases last year at 17 cases and Asian women were the main victims, standing at 29 against three Africans. The report said some of the victims were teenage girls, including a 15-year-old. [HSEC-3.6; Date: 2 January 2012; Source: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/243274/pinoyabroad/human-trafficking-cases-in-dubai-down-by-50-in-2011>]
- **Argentine Journalists Beaten And Stripped [Argentina]:** An Argentine TV reporter and cameraman were beaten, ordered to strip and threatened with death while covering a human trafficking story. Julián Chabert and Raúl Zalazar, of Channel 7 of Mendoza, were investigating reports that Bolivian immigrants were being exploited on an olive plantation. While interviewing one of the immigrants, they were confronted by the land-owner, who was armed with a gun. After they were beaten and threatened, Chabert managed to call the police on his cell phone and the farmer was arrested. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 3 January 2012; Date: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/greenslade/2012/jan/03/argentina-journalist-safety?newsfeed=true>]
- **[UPDATE] 105 Passports Found From Unclaimed Baggage At IGI [India]:** In what could lead to a massive human trafficking racket, custom officials at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) have recovered a bag containing 105 Indian passports. Though the bag was recovered a month ago, the matter has now been transferred to the Delhi Police considering the sensitivity of the matter. "We were informed by the custom officials and a case under Passport Act will be registered. Since the passports were issued from different parts of the country, we will be writing to the regional passport officers to know the originality of passports," a senior officer said. Police said that the baggage had come in a Turkish Airline and was seized by customs as unclaimed luggage. The tag on the baggage indicated that it belonged to a Gujarat resident who had landed in Delhi by a Turkish Airways flight. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 2 January 2012; Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/105-passports-found-from-unclaimed-baggage-at-IGI/Article1-790330.aspx>]
- **Child Trafficking Rampant In Gujarat, NCPCR Tells Govt [India]:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), looking into complaints of child labor and implementation of right to education (RTE) across the country, has taken strong exception to "large-scale trafficking and child labor in the BT Cotton seed farms of North Gujarat". In its detailed report, based on an NCPCR team's field visit to villages in North Gujarat districts in October 2011, the top Central body has said that while BT cotton production in Gujarat has been growing by leaps, there is a "social cost of the child labor" attached to it, which has gone unnoticed. Called "Gujarat Visit Report to Assess the Child Labour & Child Trafficking Situation in the BT Cotton Seeds Farms of Gujarat," the report says that most of the children are "being trafficked to Gujarat (Banaskantha, Sabarkantha and Patan districts) from Rajasthan (especially Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur districts of Udaipur division) for engaging them as child labor in artificial pollination work in BT cottonseed farms." These children aged between 8 and 15, and their problem needs an "interstate solution." [HSEC-3.6; Date: 3 January 2012; Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Child-trafficking-rampant-in-Gujarat-NCPCR-tells-govt/articleshow/11345172.cms>]

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