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

**NATIONAL:**

- **[UPDATE] Deme Nikqi, Alleged Leader Of Human Smuggling Ring, Charged In New York:** The reputed mastermind of a migrant smuggling ring that allegedly smuggled hundreds of undocumented immigrants from Eastern Europe into the U.S. was arraigned on Saturday in federal court in Brooklyn after his extradition from Albania on Friday. A 34-page federal indictment depicts Deme Nikqi, 53, of Kosovo, as the leader of an international criminal network dedicated to smuggling ethnic Albanians from the Balkans into the U.S. across the Mexican and Canadian borders using fraudulent passports and visas. His arrest was the result of a joint investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Nikqi pleaded not guilty to all 28 felony counts. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 9 January 2012; Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/09/deme-nikqi-smuggling-new-york\\_n\\_1195181.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/09/deme-nikqi-smuggling-new-york_n_1195181.html)]
- **Police Catch Kidnap Suspect After Month Long Human Trafficking Investigation [California]:** The arrest last week of a suspect in a violent San Francisco kidnapping capped a month long investigation headed by human trafficking and domestic violence officers from the Police Department's revamped special victims unit. The case, police officials said, is one of the first fruits of a new collaborative approach emphasizing long-term investigations by officers across disciplines. The pursuit involved human trafficking investigators, who as recently as last summer were instead focusing much of their energy on arresting prostitutes on the street, leading some critics to say their efforts were counterproductive because they punished abuse victims. Police said the investigation started on Nov. 25, after Terrell Trammell, 30, kidnapped a woman, drove her to El Sobrante and beat her badly. The woman told police that Trammell then released her, and she reported the attack at Southern Station in San Francisco. ... It took a month for law enforcement to catch up with the Trammell. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 9 January 2012; Source: <http://sfpublicpress.org/news/2012-01/police-catch-kidnap-suspect-after-monthlong-human-trafficking-investigation>]
- **Human Smuggler Sentenced To 24 Years In Prison [Texas]:** A federal judge on Monday sentenced the leader of a smuggling ring who held illegal immigrants hostage in Houston to more than 24 years in prison. Heriberto Perez-Pinon, 26, of Mexico, pleaded guilty in March 2010 to hostage taking, admitting he had transported a load of illegal immigrants from south Texas to a Houston stash house, where they were held hostage. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents raided the stash house and an apartment tied to the smuggling ring in April 2009 and found several illegal immigrants, including women who reported were being sexually assaulted by the smugglers. Five other defendants already have been sentenced to between 12 and 21 years. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 9 January 2012; Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Human-smuggler-sentenced-to-24-years-in-prison-2451123.php>]
- **Sold For Sex, In Our Backyards [Georgia]:** Today, Keisha Head is a wife and mother of three. But more than decade ago, she was the victim of a notorious human trafficker. At 16-years old, Head says she was being sold on the streets of Atlanta for sex. ... Experts say, across the globe, millions of people are trafficked each year. Hundreds of thousands of the victims are women and girls. But what surprises many -- is the rate it is happening in affluent neighborhoods where minors are being turned into sex slaves. "The buyers aren't just pedophiles. The buyers are normal community men, normal leaders, people that belong to someone," said Jennifer Swain, state coordinator for "A Future. Not A Past." ... Atlanta is seeing the problem firsthand. Some attribute the issue to a huge interstate system. Others put the blame on Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson

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International Airport – the world's busiest airport. ... With increasing technology and the Internet, human trafficking has become more accessible and more anonymous. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 7 January 2012; Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/07/sold-for-sex-in-our-backyards/>]

### **INTERNATIONAL:**

- **Trawler Used For Human Trafficking Seized [Sri Lanka]:** The multi-day fishing trawler which was to be used to take 22 asylum seekers was taken into custody by the Sri Lanka Navy this morning off the seas of Hambantota. Navy spokesman Commander Kosala Warnakulasuriya said that four crew members were also taken into custody during the raid undertaken by a naval patrol team at around 2:00 am. The owner of the trawler has gone into hiding and a joint operation is underway together with the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) to arrest him. The 14 asylum seekers who were planning to flee to Australia along with the eight supporters were arrested while in a guest house in the Rekawa area in Tangalle by the CID together with the Navy. The mastermind behind the attempt is yet to be taken into custody. The suspects include the 14 asylum seekers and eight suspects including the owner of the guest house. They are residents of Jaffna, Udappuwa, Chilaw and Negombo. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 10 January 2012; Source: <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/16017-trawler-used-for-human-trafficking-seized.html>]
- **Escapees Found Up A Tree Inside W. Java Compound [Indonesia]:** Two asylum seekers previously believed to have escaped the Karawang Immigration Office in West Java were found hiding in a tree inside the office's compound. "It turned out that the two asylum seekers did not escape at all. They were hiding by climbing a tree in the [immigration] office complex," said Hertjansjah Wiradinata, the office's interim chief. The two asylum seekers were part of a group arrested at a rest area on the Jakarta-Cikampek toll road by the National Police people-smuggling task force on Sunday. Immigration officials said 77 asylum seekers reportedly from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Syria were heading to Surabaya, where they were scheduled to meet a middleman who would then take them on a boat bound for Australia. As police were moving the asylum-seekers to an immigration detention center in Kalideres, West Jakarta, 17 escaped, including the two who climbed the tree. Officials are pursuing the remaining 15 asylum seekers. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 9 January 2012; Source: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/escapees-found-up-a-tree-inside-w-java-compound/490174>]
- **Sri Lanka Navy Arrested 22 Persons Attempting To Flee To Australia:** Sri Lankan Navy has foiled one more human trafficking racket near Rakawa in Tangalle, on the land, on a well coordinated operation carried out close to mid-night on 6th January 2012. The Sri Lanka Navy with the assistance of the Criminal Investigation Department arrested 22 persons attempting to flee the country seeking illegal entry into Australia. The main operative involved was also taken into custody and investigations are underway to trace the rest. According to Sri Lanka Navy spokesperson Commander Kosala Warnakulasuriya, the arrest was made at Rakawa in Tangalle on reliable information received. The provisions made ready for the illegal journey were too taken into custody at the rendezvous point. He added that search operations are under way to track down the vessel which was to take the arrested group onboard for the escapade. He said out of the arrested person 19 were Tamils and others Sinhalese. Over the recent years vigilant SLN troops have foiled several illegal human smuggling attempts targeting Australia as destination. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 7 January 2012; Source: <http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2012/01/07/sri-lanka-navy-arrested-22-persons-attempting-flee-australia>]
- **Beer Bar Busted For Trafficking Underage Girls [Thailand]:** A North Pattaya beer bar was raided last week for allegedly trafficking underage prostitutes. Manop Rungsisuk, who claimed to be a policy and planning analyst at the office of permanent-secretary of the Prime Minister's office and his 32-year-old sister Sophit Sukhcharoen were apprehended at the Shada beer bar opposite the Tiffany Theater in North Pattaya Dec. 26 after a foreigner cooperating with the Pattaya Tourist Police arranged the purchase of sexual services from a 17-year-old. Officers from the Tourist Police as well as the women and children's protection division seized the money used to buy the girl, a ledger of other underage employees, and a box of condoms. Police said Manop, 30, said he was working as a cashier to help his sister and did not know of any prostitution being run out of the bar. With evidence that the teen girl was dispatched out to a Naklua hotel, officers didn't give the alleged bureaucrat's claims any credence. The 17-year-old girl from Nakhon Ratchasima said she'd been tricked into working as a prostitute and had not been paid despite servicing three customers. Both bar employees were slapped with human trafficking and prostitution charges. [HSEC-3.10; Date: 6 January 2012; Source: <http://www.pattayamail.com/localnews/beer-bar-busted-for-trafficking-underage-girls-9128?ref=pmci>]

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