# Stop Trafficking! Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter Awareness

October 2019 Vol. 17 No. 10

This issue highlights the connection of sporting events with human trafficking.



#### U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking Sponsors of 'Stop Trafficking

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
- Adrian Dominicans
- Benedictine Sisters of Chicago ·Benedictine Sisters of Mount St.
- Scholastica, Atchison, KS
- ·Benet Hill Monastery
- ·Cenacle Sisters, N. Amer. Prov.
- Congregation of Notre Dame
- Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
- Congregation of St. Joseph
- ·Daughters of Charity,
- Province of the West
- ·Daughters of Charity, Prov. of St. Louise
- Daughters of the Holy Spirit
- ·Dominican Sisters of Houston, TX
- Dominican Sisters of
- Mission San Jose, CA Dominican Sisters of Peace
- ·Dominican Sisters of
- San Rafael, CA Dominican Sisters of
- Sinsinawa, WI
- ·Dominican Sisters of Springfield, IL
- Felician Sisters ·Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
- Franciscan Sisters of Peace
- •Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual
- Adoration
- •Franciscan Sisters of the Poor •Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
- •Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
- Marianites of Holy Cross
- Marvknoll Sisters
- Medical Mission Sisters
- •Northern California Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
- Presentation Sisters. Aberdeen
- •Presentation Sisters, San Francisco
- •Racine Dominicans
- •Religious of the Sacred Heart of Marv
- Religious Sisters of Charity
- SC Ministry Foundation
- ·School Sisters of Notre Dame, North America
- School Sisters of St. Francis of Christ the Kina
- ·Sisters of Bon Secours

·Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati Sisters of Charity of Halifax Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth ·Sisters of Charity of Nazareth ·Sisters of Charity of New York ·Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word

- Sisters of Christian Charity Mendham, NJ & Wilmette, IL
- Sisters of Mercy Catherine's Residence Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- ·Sisters of Notre Dame, CA Prov. ·Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, USA
- ·Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
- Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton ·Sisters of St. Francis of Colorado Springs
- Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque Sisters of St. Francis of Mary
- Immaculate Sisters of St. Francis of
- Redwood City Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God
- Sisters of St. Francis Rochester, MN
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, USA & Canada Prov.s
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Sisters of the Divine Savior
- Sisters of the Good Shepherd ·Sisters of the Holy Cross ·Sisters of the Holy Family
- ·Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Marv
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary Sisters of the Precious Blood Sisters of the Sacred Hearts Society of the Divine Savior Society of the Holy Child Jesus Society of the Sacred Heart
- U.S. Ursuline Sisters of the Roman

## **Sports & Trafficking: How Are They Related?**

## The World Cup Events

The World Cup events in Brazil, South Africa and Germany had countrywide anti-trafficking campaigns to educate fans about the effect of human trafficking.

Rather than creating such a campaign in 2018, Russia created the perfect situation for potential traffickers. It adopted policies aimed at closing shelters that help human trafficking victims, had minimal laws against human trafficking, and eased visa restrictions around the time of the World Cup itself.

With a long history of Nigerians being trafficked into Russia, Nigerian officials and the Nigerian government's anti-trafficking agency, NAPTIP, were forced to increase efforts to prevent potential victims from leaving their country and traveling to Russia during the World Cup.

Jeremy Schaap's E:60 feature in 2014 was one of the first reports showing that trafficked laborers were building the facilities in Qatar for the 2022 World Cup.

> To see this video, go to: https://bluefoot.tv/projects/ e60-qatars-world-cup/

Under the *Kafala* system, many of the migrant workers charged with building stadiums, hotels, airports and other infrastructure for the 2022 World Cup had been stripped of their passports and forced to work and live in dangerous conditions. At one point, there was one death per day on work sites and it was projected that, if unaddressed, the death toll could reach up to 4,000 laborers by 2022. (https://www.espn.com/espn/story/\_/ id/25876477/the-rise-exposure-human-trafficking-sports-world)





#### Super Bowl and Trafficking

Back in 2011 former Texas Attorney General and now Governor, Greg Abbott, stated that, "The Super Bowl is the greatest show on earth, but it also has an ugly underbelly. It may be the single largest human trafficking incident in the U.S."

Since then his claim has been forcefully challenged, but there is evidence that trafficking does occur around sports and sporting events.

In 2017, at the time of the Super Bowl held in Houston, law enforcement arrested 750 trafficking suspects. One hundred of these arrests were in Houston where the game took place; others around the country were targeted at the time of the event. Law enforcement reported that six minors and 86 adults were rescued as part of this 2017 sting.

A. Jimenez, a retired Deputy Agent at the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS), worked on that sting operation. He explained that groups of trafficked victims, under control of a single pimp, travel from all major cities to the host site due to the demand for sex around major events. Large sporting events, including collegiate sports, are the largest coordinated efforts of movement in young victims within the U.S. Most of these victims are both male and female U.S. citizens, between the ages of 13-16.

(https://www.reuters.com/article/us-football-nfl-superbowl-trafficking-an/is-the-superbowl-really-the-u-s-s-biggest-sex-traffickingmagnet-idUSKBN1FL6A1)

At the 2018 Super Bowl in Minneapolis, a sting operation called *Operation* Guardian Angel yielded 94 trafficking arrests. The operation received 1,560 responses to sex ads placed by law

enforcement during the 11-day period. Most of the victims trafficked were Asian women, which reflected regional sex trafficking trends. (https://www. twincities.com/2018/02/20/police-go-on-offense-during-super-bowl-nab-94-men-in-sextrafficking-stings/)

During the DHS stings, agents begin surveillance several days before the event. They work with nonprofit groups and industries likely to see an uptick in illicit activity: hotels, rest stops, massage parlors, modeling agencies, lingerie retailers and adult entertainment clubs. They train the staff on trafficking red flag indicators, particularly in hotels, to identify what does not look normal, such as an older male accompanying young females or no trash pick-up or clean towels requested, signifying they never leave the room. The DHS also provides stickers with the trafficking hotline phone number to be placed on hotel toiletries and restrooms of other establishments since this may be the only time the victim is alone. (https:// www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2018/02/19/ our-hotels-fighting-human-trafficking-but-wecant-do-alone-arne-sorenson/336959002/)

#### Widening Awareness of **Links Between Sports** and Trafficking

It is important to note that human trafficking related to sports can happen locally.

In late 2017, a 17-year-old girl who was a victim of sexual assault and human trafficking called the police to report the man responsible, Elan Seagraves. Seagraves was heavily involved in the local community and sports. He was the boys' soccer coach at John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento, CA, a youth team coach, and a Lyft and Uber driver. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison for two charges, plus an additional 16 months related to possession of obscene materials featuring underage children. (https://usatodayhss. com/2018/former-calif-soccer-coach-pleads-nocontest-to-human-trafficking-charges)

Moninda Marube, an anti-human-trafficking advocate and Univ. of Maine-Farmington running coach, fell victim to human trafficking as he was trying to escape poverty and a bad political climate in Kenya. Marube flew to the U.S. in hopes of winning major races and earning lofty sponsorships. He moved to Coon Rapids, MN to train and live with an agent. While in Coon Rapids, Marube's agent took his passport and visa, forced him to live in a single room with several other runners, withheld the majority of his winnings and limited his communication with others. A few people in the community helped Marube escape from his agent and he eventually moved to Maine. (For details of his rescue, go to: https://bangordailvnews.com/2018/02/26/ news/state/on-the-run-how-a-human-trafficking-victim-found-safe-haven-in-maine/)

While in Charlotte, NC, Evelyn Mack set up a private school where she lured in foreign student athletes on the promise that they would earn athletic scholarships to prominent schools.

A federal indictment stated that Mack took about \$1,000 per student from athletic recruiters to falsely represent about 75 foreign teens as students in the Evelyn Mack Academy, which was authorized to enroll high school students under F1 visas. She entered false information into the Dept. of Homeland Security's computerized tracking system, allowing them to avoid detection by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE).

All of the student athletes were actually in the U.S. illegally and mysteriously disappeared with basketball coaches or recruiters. Mack ultimately pled guilty to federal charges.

(https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/ local/education/article214433599.html)

17/10



## The Dream: Professional Sports as a Way to Help My Family

Like most teenagers in Nigeria, playing professional soccer seemed a fantastic way to make money. It was not only a job. It was also a way to bring Matthew



Edafe's family out of a desperate cycle of poverty—even if it meant leaving his home, his town, his country, for faraway Europe.

Edafe was from a small city in Nigeria, a country that has produced generations of world famous soccer stars. He had raw soccer talent but, like many parents around the world, his mother preferred he use the money the family had saved to study to be a doctor or lawyer or accountant. But when a guy claiming to be a player agent turned up in town, driv-

ing a big car, saying he knew a lot of important people, and saying he had taken other young players to Europe, it was difficult to ignore.

"He showed some photos he had taken with white people," explained Edafe. "I don't know how they do that—maybe it's Photoshop—to show that they had the opportunity to travel. They bring a document that says they want to take 30 young players abroad; that for the very first game you play, any game, a trial match or whatever, they will give you \$2000. When you sign the contract you will start earning anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

"The only thing that comes into your head during all that is the exchange rate from U.S. dollars to Nigerian naira. It is a question of your dream versus your reality. The person who is speaking looks well fed. You don't even ask a question.

"The African is brought up to respect and not question their elders. The elders are not supposed to lie. The elders are supposed to be a paradigm of knowledge and honesty and wisdom. So the question is, how do I get myself onto this list of 30 players? Then the agent comes up with a 'contribution' you have to make, ranging from \$2200 to USD\$5000.

"People then get more desperate, and sell their property, family land, houses, parents' cars to get on this team. The agent says, 'We are scheduled to play about 30 games so you will get the money back and more."

Once Edafe paid the required fee, he would travel to Spain with the "team" of other young Nigerian hopefuls. Matches and a trial with a team in Spain's second division would await. This was the big chance. There was no choice to make.

"My mother borrowed a lot of money," Edafe explained. "She tried to make sure I made something out of life. We were really from the slum; really poor people."

But this journey would be no luxury trip, the way many professional footballers travel in the first class section of a jet or on comfortable air-conditioned VIP buses. With 22 other players, Edafe left Nigeria for Senegal before heading for Cape Verde—by boat. There, on the island, they were promised a training camp to prepare for Spain.

Edafe said after four days on Cape Verde, some white men, speaking a language none of the players under-



stood, came by to watch the **Nigerians** train. They left without speaking to the boys. So.

too, did the agent. Just like that.

The "team" was soon tossed from its hotel and the players worked out what might have seemed obvious to others. There was no deal, no game, no tour, no plan, no money, and no agent.

Edafe was stuck in Cape Verde for 11 months. He lived on the street and did all kinds of jobs before he met a local girl who introduced him to her father. That earned him a job in a boatvard and led to a trip back home on a ship.

"I was 20 years old in a strange land," said Edafe. "We heard on the street that this is what normally happens. I thought I would never see my family again. I didn't know what to do. I lost a chance to further my education and I lost a chance to play football. I was in a daze. There was no going forward. There was no going back."

There are no accurate statistics for the number of players from poor countries scammed and marooned in Europe—the trade is illegal, players are not registered, and are often embarrassed about their plight. Most arrive in Europe via the broken promises of agents or private coaching academies that claim associations with European clubs. According to some observers, professional clubs in Europe are aware of the crime and corruption in player recruitment that is now systemic.

Ghana, Cameroon, Mali, and Cote D'Ivoire are also major sources of young players. African clubs recruit players and promise to sell them to a club in another country, which has a reputation as a launch pad for a fabled career in Europe. The dreams sold and routes taken are similar to those more commonly associated with prostitution

Sold cont. on pg. 4



#### **Vigilance All Year Long**

The FBI traditionally sees an uptick in online solicitation during large scale events like the Super Bowl. But the problem exists not just at major sporting events but throughout the year in communities all around the country.

Ahead of the 2018 Super Bowl in Minneapolis, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota asked the University of Minnesota's Urban Research Outreach-Engagement Center to examine the scholarly evidence about the idea that the Super Bowl causes an uptick in sex trafficking. The study found some empirical data to support claims that the Super Bowl, "like many other large and localized public events, correlates with an increase in the number of online ads for commercial sex in the host city."

"However, the Super Bowl does not appear to have the largest impact and evidence suggests the impact is shortlived," the authors wrote in a research brief. (https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/31/us/ sex-trafficking-super-bowl-myth/index.html)

An older study from 2015 looked at ways to combat the illicit business of human trafficking around large sporting events. The McCain Institute Decision Theater utilized research from the Arizona State University's Office for Sex Trafficking Intervention Research and Thorn - Digital Defenders of Children. The Decision Theater Network thereby gave legislators and law enforcement officials a tool to examine real-time data on sex trafficking at Super Bowl XLIX in Phoenix.

Among the key evidence to be gained from online investigations is the networking of victims through identifying related ads. Commonly found during this research were multiple

victims offered as "two girl specials" or related via common phone numbers. This indicated a network of at least two persons in need of assistance and implied the involvement of at least one other person intentionally marketing the victims in this manner – the trafficker. A second piece of evidence to be gleaned during online investigations was the path of the movement of victims from one city or event to the next. Throughout the course of the research, a noticeable path of victimization was identified along which victims were moved either to limit exposure to local law enforcement or to move them towards significant events, such as the Super Bowl.

The Institute concluded their study with many recommendations, includ-

- Dispel the myth about prostitution that it includes an element of choice by showing that over half of ads placed online show indications of trafficking situations predicated on force, fraud or coercion, and that pimps openly recruit new victims by contacting online ads.
- Dispel the myth that prostitution is a victimless crime, by showing that it is dangerous and has the potential to involve violence, drug use and poses public health concerns for both buyers and sellers as victims of sexual exploitation will be forced to take higher risks.
- Continue to invest in new knowledge about the national incidence rate of sex trafficking and its growth and networks across the country.
- Focus more attention on the demand for commercial sex, and test new ways to dissuade buyers.
- Convince local and federal lawmakers and law enforcement to hold buyers accountable for driving the demand for commercial sex.
- · Enforce existing laws about prostitution that will deter buying and selling of commercial sex.

(https://www.mccaininstitute.org/countering-human-trafficking-at-large-sporting-events/)

**Sold** *cont. from pg. 3* and illegal immigration.

Twenty years ago there were fake agents recruiting in Africa and taking money from families who paid for a ticket to get to Europe. Sometimes the player made it to a professional club for trials: other times the agent abandoned the player on the street.

Mission 89, a non-profit organization established in 2017, has a strategy to combat child trafficking in the name of sports - asking the global sport industry, governments, civil society organizations, law enforcement, media and other key actors to consider what they can do to stop criminals from exploiting the dreams of children pursuing a professional career in sports.

Mission 89 has stories of children going from sub-Saharan countries to Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt. These countries are the first mythical step toward Europe where the final step is intended to be Western Europe. However young players end up in Serbia, Croatia, Romania, or Poland where it is easy to get a work permit. Once that permit is granted they can go to another country. Other paths take them to the U.S., Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and, more recently, some Gulf states. It is an international market.

"Soccer players are bought and sold like cattle," said the late Roger Blanpain, a lawyer and former head of FIF-Pro, the international players union. "This amounts to human trafficking at all levels."

Today, in Lagos, Matthew Edafe is trying to educate young players so that others do not share his experience. Mission 89's objectives directly address the experiences of Matthew Edafe and his teammates:

- research into the trafficking of young athletes:
- education about pathways to professional sports careers so young athletes and their families make informed decisions and avoid exploitation:
- · regulation and licensing of academies to mitigate the opportunities for athletes to be exploited. (https://mission89.org/the-issue/)



#### Awareness

#### Japan and the 2020 Summer Olympics

As the 2020 Olympic host, Japan is the focus of a global campaign to tackle child prostitution and exploitation linked to sport, with activists working to shed light on the 'hidden crimes' they say have a symbiotic relationship with mega-events.

Large-scale sporting events attract a huge influx of tourists who flock to host cities. It is claimed that criminal organizations follow, looking to cash in through the exploitation of vulnerable children who are pushed into the commercial sex trade or into forced labor.

'It's A Penalty' (IAP) is a British-based organization founded by Sarah de Carvalho (see also pg. 8), that launches campaigns during major sporting events, using them as platforms to educate the general public about the risks faced by children, while equipping people with mechanisms to identify crimes and report anything suspicious. In doing so, it aims to widen the safety net provided by local communities, which IAP considers are the first line of defense.

"The reason we run it during major sporting events is...firstly, we know when there is an influx of hundreds of thousands of people that demand increases, but secondly because it is a global problem it provides a platform to get the message out all over the world," said de Carvalho. IAP partners with local police, airlines, sporting bodies and nongovernment organizations during sporting events including the 2014 soccer World Cup, 2016 Rio Olympics and 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

In 2018, after seeing the 'It's a Penalty' campaign film on one of IAP's

partner airlines, an 11 year-old boy contacted IAP to report the abuse of himself and his teammates by his swimming coach. IAP took appropriate action.

According to the *International Labor Organization* (ILO), there are 24.9 million victims of forced labor, nearly one-fourth of whom are children.

Crimes against children are a major issue for Japan and action must be taken. IAP will work with the International Olympic Committee, which has pledged its support.

In the campaign around the 2019 Super Bowl in Atlanta GA IAP, with the help of 200 or so volunteers, handed out leaflets and wristbands with a hotline number to about 300 Atlanta hotels and motels, the efforts leading to some 170 arrests by a FBI task force.

See an interview with
Sarah de Carvalho just prior to the
2019 Super Bowl event:
https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=yclNeHbuNyA

Government statistics reveal a total of 46 human trafficking survivors were taken into protective custody in Japan in 2017, both Japanese and foreign nationals. Of those rescued, 28 were Japanese, a then-record high, followed by eight Thai nationals and seven Filipinos. There was one victim each from Vietnam, Brazil and Mongolia. But those figures may not give a true reflection of the extent of the problem.

In response, IAP and its local partners pulled together a list of big-name Japanese stars who were willing to be the faces of the 2020 campaign to promote child protection on the global stage. De Carvalho said when we shed light on the dark side of sporting



events, it allows people to come faceto-face with societal problems, rather than turning a blind eye to events we are ignorant about or ignore.

In 2016, a campaign video featuring high-profile athletes was shown on international airlines, in hotels, and on giant screens at Rio Olympic venues.

Mie Kajikawa, of IAP's strategic partner in Tokyo 'Sport For Smile', said she would like to see the Tokyo Olympics prove sports have the power to change the world. "We hope to use sports as an effective instrument to combat difficult social problems," Kajikawa said.

In Japan, de Carvalho met with senior officials at Narita and Haneda airports, as well as university students and young leaders who desired to initiate action to help end human trafficking and exploitation. "Japan is a destination, and source and transit country for men and women subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking and for children subjected to sex trafficking," de Carvalho said while pointing out the scale of the problem. "The problem is increasing because of the internet so people coming in from abroad for an event, sporting fans, they will be targeted."

(https://english.kyodonews.net/ news/2019/06/4804a4f5ed38-featureolympics-bring-human-traffickingscrutiny-to-sport.html)



#### Advocacy

#### 'The Workers Cup'

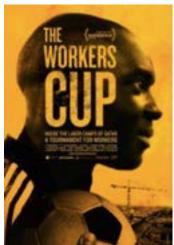
In 2022, Oatar hosts the biggest sporting event in the world, the FIFA World Cup. However, that tournament is being built on the backs of 1.6 million migrant workers. Inside the labor camps of Qatar, African and Asian migrant workers build the facilities of the 2022 World Cup while also competing in a football tournament of their own. 'The Workers Cup' is a feature-length documentary that shines a light on the situation by telling the story through workers' eyes as they toil in the searing heat while also competing for company teams in a tournament called the 'Workers Cup'.

Sixty percent of Qatar's total population are laborers. From India, Nepal, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and, increasingly from Africa, some of the world's poorest people are working the lowest level jobs to ensure the World Cup can be hosted in the world's richest country. These men work exceedingly long hours for scant salaries, and they live isolated in labor camps which are by law kept outside city limits.

The film unfolds inside a Qatari labor camp that the migrant workers say feels like a prison. Hidden between a highway and remote stretch of desert, the *Umm Salal Camp* is intentionally out of sight and out of mind. So are the 4000 men who live there.

The tournament is being sponsored by the same committee organizing the 2022 World Cup and 24 construction companies have been invited to field a team of workers. Over the course of the tournament the film follows the men as they alternate between two startling extremes: they play heroes on the football field, but are the lowest members of society off of it.

One character in the film came to Qatar to earn enough money to build a home in India. Another, a talented goalkeeper had played in the 1st Division in Ghana but he could not make ends meet. He came to Oatar to work construction, but out of pride he lied and told his father that he was coming to play professional football. Another player from Nepal spent eight futile years trying to bring his wife to Qatar. He struggles to decide whether to return home or stay and earn money. A recruiting agent in Ghana told a fifth character that he would be coming to Qatar to join a professional football club. After he arrived in the country, he realized his agent lied. While he works construction, he still dreams of playing professional football, hoping to catch the eye of a scout while playing in 'The Workers Cup' so he can escape the camp.



explores universal themes of ambition, aspiration and masculinity, as we see the characters wrangle hope, meaning, and op-

The film

portunity out of dismal circumstances. Ultimately, societies' own complicated relationship with sport is revealed.

(http://www.theworkerscupfilm.com)

# Financial Institutions Can Help

The U.S. State Department lists red flags related to potential HT that anti-money laundering monitoring systems should detect, including:

- Consistent use of cash with multiple cash withdrawals and transfers in small amounts to avoid identification or reporting requirements
- High volume of airline and hotel expenses, including excessive use of travel agencies
- Use of multiple bank accounts and credit cards, as well as multiple identities with common addresses
- Use of shell companies, falsified identity documents or not providing beneficial ownership information
- A lifestyle that does not match the customer/member's known profile
- Relationships with known or suspected criminals
- High velocity cash deposits to ATM withdrawals or Automated Clearing House (ACH)/wire transactions
- High volume of fast food and Redbox (movies) purchases
- No proof of a licit business behind banking operations

When investigating suspicious activity, financial institutions only need to report the activity by means of a *suspicious activity report* (SAR). They can also make a call to law enforcement to bring it to their attention. They do not need to, nor should they, determine the exact nature of activity or prove that the transaction(s) in question are derived from illicit activity.

If an institution suspects HT, it must ensure that the SAR-writing procedures are thorough and inclusive. Institutions can be key in noticing and reporting suspected illicit activity, including HT. They provide key information to help unlock law enforcement investigations that lead to arrests related to HT. (https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/fs/2018/283549.htm)



#### Advocacy

## Qatar Signed Human **Rights Treaties**

Amnesty International asked, "What does it mean for migrant workers?"

In 2018 Qatar announced that it would join the vast majority of countries around the world, as well as Gulf neighbors Kuwait and Bahrain, in ratifying two key treaties that underpin much of today's international human rights law.

By ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the *International Cove*nant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Qatar is legally obliged to respect, protect and fulfill the range of rights guaranteed by both treaties for everybody within its territory, without discrimination, which includes the hundreds of thousands of migrant workers currently building its 2022 World Cup infrastructure, or employed as domestic workers.

However, when ratifying the treaties, Qatar entered a number of damaging 'reservations' that limited the scope of its commitments. Oatar refused to fully recognize equal rights for women in matters of personal laws and also stated that they will interpret the term 'punishment' in line with the Islamic Sharia. This means that women will still not have equal rights to inheritance, and that there will be no removal of the death penalty or corporal punishment, which is currently applicable in crimes including murder, banditry and adultery.

For migrant workers, who continue to face severe exploitation amidst the country's pre-World Cup construction boom, there are further disappointments. In a move that conflicts with

Qatar's claims to want to put an end to labor exploitation the government has also reiterated that only Qatari nationals are allowed to form associations and trade unions, thereby preventing migrant workers from acting and bargaining collectively to improve their dire working conditions.

It ultimately requires fundamental reform of the Qatar's notorious 'kafala' sponsorship system, which continues to permit serious and widespread exploitation, and a much more proactive enforcement of its Labor Law.

For example, the ICESCR says that everyone has a right to just and safe working conditions, fair wages, paid holidays and reasonable limitation of working hours – far removed from today's reality. If Qatar were to both respect and ensure protection of these obligations for all of its population, including the migrant workforce, workers would no longer be subjected to conditions that the *International* Labor Committee (ILO) has described as forced labor.

The ICESCR also makes clear that everyone has the right to freely choose or accept his or her work. If this right was to be respected by all employers in Qatar, it would mean that workers would finally be allowed to change jobs without the permission of those employers, and would no longer be at risk of detention for "absconding" if they attempt to leave exploitative situations.

Similarly, if Qatar was to respect the right of freedom of movement outlined in the ICCPR - including that all individuals to be free to leave any country, including his own - employers would no longer be able to prevent a worker from leaving Qatar to return home, as they can today.

If Qatar does change its kafala system to allow workers to freely leave the country and change jobs, to join trade

unions, receive fair pay and be protected from labor abuse and exploitation. then signing these treaties will have been a key moment in history.

If it does not, then it will be yet another missed opportunity - like many others we have seen since Oatar secured the World Cup in 2010 - and a violation of the international treaties the country has signed.

(https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/ news/2018/06/gatar-finally-joins-two-keyhuman-rights-treaties-but-what-does-it-reallymean-for-migrant-workers/)

#### 'Reality Check'

In a 2019 briefing, "Reality Check: The state of migrant workers' rights with less than four years to go until the Qatar 2022 World Cup", Amnesty International (AI) examined Qatar's reform process, revealing Qatar needs to do much more to respect and protect the rights of two million migrant workers.

"Holes in the reforms mean many workers are still stuck in harsh conditions, vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, while those who return home do so empty handed, with no compen-



iustice." AI called on Oatar to fully abolish the abusive *kafala* sponsorship system, which continues to

unscrupulous employers for

up to five years.

Qatar authorities ended the requirement for employees to obtain an "exit permit" requiring their employer's permission to be able to leave the country for most migrant workers.

However, limitations in some of the reforms introduced mean many migrant workers in Qatar are still at risk of forced labor, restrictions on their movement and other abuses.

Under the kafala system workers still cannot change jobs without their employers' permission. They face crim-

Qatar cont. on pg. 8



Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1.888.3737.888 Text "BeFree" (233733)

Action

## **Learn about Sports Trafficking in Africa**

Young boys are recruited with a promise of trying out in sports clubs in Europe, where they may become professional soccer players. However it costs their parents large sums of money and the children may be abandoned in transit or in destination countries because of unscrupulous recruiters.

Currently up to 6,000 minors have visited Europe, but with a failure rate of 70% when it comes to fulfilling a dream of success.



Lerina Bright, founder of *Mission 89* tries to educate Africans to this risk.

See more at:

https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=IEdOhgsixAo

#### 'Follow the Money'

The Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) is the largest membership organization dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and skills of financial crime detection and prevention professionals worldwide. Its CAMS certification is the most widely recognized anti-money laundering certification among compliance professionals.

For more information, go to: www.acams.org

#### 'Why I Gave Up Everything to Live in a Slum'

A talk by a Brazilian missionary was the spark that sent British *Sarah de Carvalho* to help out in Rio de Janei-

ro. At first she planned to stay for three months and helped run a drop-in center for children so they could do their homework in peace.

After two years she started her own charity

called 'Happy Child' to help children get out of the slums.

She raised enough money to buy a farm 40 minutes outside the shanty town where children could live like real children and get an education away from gang warfare and violence. The hope was that an education would help them work their way out of poverty instead of joining gangs.

In 2006 she handed over the running of the charity to others and moved back to Britain. When she visits Brazil now, she sees progress. Yet many children are still trafficked into the sex trade. "Sadly it's particularly prevalent when big sporting events such as the World Cup are happening." she said.

In 2012 she started a campaign called 'It's A Penalty', which raises awareness of the signs of child trafficking and gives people easy ways to report it.

"There were more than 11,000 calls to our hotline during the Brazil World Cup in 2014 and each were passed on to local police and social services."

#### **Informative Web Sites:**

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

#### 'Reality Check' Qatar

https://www.amnesty.org/ download/Documents/ MDE2297582019ENGLISH.PDF

#### Mission 89

https://mission89.org/resources/

It's A Penalty

http://itsapenalty.org

To read more of *de Carvalho's* story, go to:

https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/ life/908136/Brazil-charity-work-slum-Sarahde-Carvalho-Happy-Child-It-s-A-Penaltytrafficking

#### Qatar cont. from pg. 7

inalization for 'absconding' and risk having their passports confiscated.

The temporary minimum wage is just over \$200 per month, while new labor courts intended to tackle cases of abuse including non-payment of wages are overwhelmed with cases and hundreds of workers have returned home without justice or compensation.

Domestic workers, meanwhile, are still required to obtain an "exit permit" in order to leave the country, and a weak domestic workers' law introduced in 2017 means many remain vulnerable to abuse.

(https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/ news/2019/02/qatarauthorities-must-step-upefforts-to-honour-labour-rights-promises-before-2022-world-cup/)

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among USCSAHT members, organizations and concerned persons, collaborating to eliminate all forms of human trafficking.

To access back issues, go to: http://www.stopenslavement.org/ past-issues-chronological.html To contribute information, please contact: schafer@stopenslavement.org Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS