



PRINCIPALS IN TAJIKISTAN

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This press release is issued by the Principals' Group in Tajikistan – a coordination body of Ambassadors and representatives of donors and International Financial Institutions who participate in regular coordination meetings with a rotating chairperson on topics of national interest. Those represented by this joint press release include AKDN, ADB, Canada, EC, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, OSCE, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, UN, World Bank and USA. The current chairman of the Principals' Group is Graeme Loten, British Ambassador.

PRESS RELEASE

27 December 2006

Bringing an End to the Misery of Human Trafficking¹

The heads of the major Embassies and donor organisations working in Tajikistan (the Principals' Group) held a thought – provoking discussion on the problem of human trafficking at their most recent meeting on 7 December. The main presentation, given by Mr Mahmoud Naderi, Chief of Mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), made clear that human trafficking covered all manners of abuse – from tying a victim into debt, retention of passport or travel documents through to physical violence – and was directed against women, children, and even men.

The stereo-typical example of human trafficking is of women being made to work in the commercial sex trade in states like the UAE. But in reality the problem goes further than this and victims of trafficking can be found in a wide range of employment sectors in both developed and developing countries and can be subject to sexual- or labour exploitation.

The IOM, working closely with the government of Tajikistan on the trafficking problem with US funding, is concentrating its efforts on preventing the phenomenon of trafficking through better education and information; building up the capacity of government and others to counteract trafficking; and repatriating some of the victims. In addition the OSCE has been working on a project, part-funded by the European Commission, to raise awareness of the issue of trafficking amongst youth. Finally the

¹ The presentation held on human trafficking and combating trafficking initiatives in Tajikistan during the Principals' Group Meeting on 07 December can be found at:

[http://www.untj.org/principals/minutes/Presentation_on_Trafficking_in_Persons\(IOM\).ppt](http://www.untj.org/principals/minutes/Presentation_on_Trafficking_in_Persons(IOM).ppt)

government of Tajikistan is playing its part by enacting appropriate legislation and establishing an inter-ministerial commission.

The Principals' Group agreed that the international community, together with the Tajikistan government and civil society, needed to become more engaged in the problem of human trafficking and should work more closely together to overcome it.

Notes to the Editor :

In 2002 Tajikistan became a signatory of the UN International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which includes obligations to fight against human trafficking through a range of preventative measures, the prosecution of traffickers, as well as the repatriation rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficking victims. After signing the Convention, in 2004, the Majlis-i Oli approved a comprehensive Anti-Trafficking law (Article 47), which was later ratified by the President. In order to coordinate governmental efforts and to improve the effective implementation of these new laws, an Inter-ministerial Commission on Combating Trafficking in Persons consisting of representatives of 15 ministries was created by presidential decree in 2005. This commission has been tasked with creating new policies which has resulted in a State Comprehensive Programme on Combating Trafficking in Persons in 2006 for the period of 2006-2010.