



COMBATTING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

AFRICOM FACT SHEET

Hot Spots

The following countries have reported high levels of human trafficking, mainly sex trafficking and child soldiering. There are no Tier 1 countries in Africa Command (AFRICOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). There are 19 Tier 2 countries, 18 Tier 2 Watch List, 13 Tier 3, and two Special Cases in the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>).

Eritrea – Tier 3
Libya- Tier 3
Nigeria – Tier 2
Somalia – Special Case
South Sudan – Tier 3



Case Examples

Case 1: In 2014, the United Nations (U.N.) investigated allegations of U.N. peacekeepers in the Central African Republic exchanging food for sex. Children as young as 9, 10, and 11 years old, were forced by U.N. peacekeepers to perform oral sex and other sex acts in exchange for food. Additional allegations of peacekeepers involved in commercial sexual exploitation of children include 150 allegations in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2005; similar allegations in Liberia (young girls exchanged sex acts for \$10 to buy food for their families); and Sierra Leone, where at least one boy was paid less than \$1.00 after being sodomized by U.N. peacekeepers.

Case 2: Ibrahim, a boy from Mali was lured to a cocoa farm with promises of a bicycle, radio, clothes, and more by a trafficker who then sold him into bonded labor. Ibrahim and other trafficked boys worked long hours doing back-breaking and dangerous work farming cocoa and bananas. The farmer gave them little to eat, beat them severely, and forbade them from leaving the farm. Ibrahim suffered in forced labor for two years before he escaped and returned to Mali.

Links to Mission & Readiness

Boko Haram and other militant Islamic extremist and insurgent organizations are trafficking young females in Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon to be used by militant soldiers and forced to work in their camps. There are also reports that they are being trafficked.

In AFRICOM AOR, child soldiering is a problem in countries such as Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There are more than 17,000 child soldiers in South Sudan who fight for rebel forces or the government. They carry AK-47s and M-16s on the front lines of combat while also serving as human mine detectors and suicidal agents.

Actions for Commanders

Communicate clearly the U.S. Government's "zero tolerance" policy for TIP and each Department of Defense member's responsibility to prevent TIP. Ensure soldiers understand the link between prostitution and TIP, and that, although legal in some countries in the AOR, prostitution is often coerced and can involve underage individuals. Furthermore, it is a violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to solicit prostitution even in countries where it is legal. Ensure establishments are placed off limits through an established process and ensure all personnel are aware of the off-limits establishments. Ensure all personnel complete mandatory annual Combating Trafficking in Persons training and understand what is and is not appropriate in terms of reporting and intervening in a suspected human trafficking situation.