



Quarterly CTIP Newsletter

Agency Highlights

Uyghur Forced Labor in Xinjiang, China, and USG Efforts to Guard Against Complicity *Contributed by: CTIP Program Management Office*

The Department of Defense supports the U.S. Government's [zero tolerance policy](#) on human trafficking and has been working to identify [potential supply chain exposure](#) to entities engaging in forced labor. The DoD CTIP PMO serves on the Senior Policy Operating Group Procurement and Supply Chain Committee's Subgroup on Forced Labor in Global Supply Chains. This interagency subcommittee creates a coordinated and collective U.S. Government voice in relation to combating forced labor in global supply chains.

Since March 2017, the People's Republic of China has arbitrarily detained more than 1.8 million Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in mass internment camps primarily in the Xinjiang province. Recent external reports also indicate that Uyghurs have [been transported to work](#) in other provinces in China and the government gives subsidies to companies moving to Xinjiang or employing Muslim minority workers. This state-sponsored structure exacerbates a demand for Muslim ethnic minorities who can be placed in work assignments where they can be controlled and watched.



Image taken from the U.S. State Department's [2021 TIP Report](#)

forced labor has been used in the production of certain goods and that these goods will be stopped for further evaluation. CBP issues WROs upon completion of detailed investigations on human trafficking allegations. The CBP Forced Labor division gathers information from sources such as reports from the U.S. Departments of State and Labor, victim statements, and supply chain mapping.

Forced Labor in Xinjiang



Image taken from the [U.S. Department of Labor](#)

Numerous government agencies, including the U.S. Departments of State and Labor, have found [evidence of forced labor](#) under the guise of "vocational training" in Xinjiang. Some of the forced labor indicators they found included debt bondage, restriction of movement, isolation, intimidation and threats, withholding of wages, and abusive living and working conditions.

In response to these indicators of forced labor, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) has issued numerous [Withhold Release Orders](#) (WROs) on products manufactured in the Xinjiang region. A WRO is a preliminary action that indicates to the U.S. importing community that there is reasonable evidence that

Current WROs are primarily focused on products such as cotton, hair products, and computer parts as well as any products produced in whole or in part in Xinjiang. Given the prevalence of forced labor and other labor abuses in the region, it is important to ensure that suppliers are not engaging in forced labor. These WROs and import restrictions will help reduce the risk of products produced with slave labor being used in U.S. federal contracts. With such serious and well-documented abuses, it is important that the world remains vigilant with respect to labor and goods linked to Xinjiang, including reasonable measures to guard against complicity in these violations.

Featured Article

Child Soldiers and Human Trafficking

Contributed by: CTIP Program Management Office

When Charles was twelve, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel forces came through his home, the Kono District of Sierra Leone. They were marching for Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, and building an army by forcing citizens to join them. They were particularly interested in children and, during the 11-year civil war, 40-50% of the RUF forces and 20% of the government forces were children ages 9-18. Charles remembers:

“You’d see them in groups, take a girl and go into the room and they come back out, three men, all sweating, and you heard the girl crying and shouting. Sometimes you just hear a gunshot, like bam. Part of their method for getting children to do what they wanted to do was to force us to take drugs. Those few of us who pretended we didn’t understand guns and how to use them they used as laborers, but the others had to do terrible things: the rebels instructed children to kill, burn houses, loot and cause many other mayhem. You can never unsee these atrocities.”

The U.S. Government recognizes [child soldiering](#) as a form of human trafficking. Child soldiering occurs when a governmental armed group (including police or other security forces), paramilitary organization, rebel group, or other non-state armed group unlawfully recruits or uses children—through force, fraud, or coercion—as combatants or in support roles. Such support roles include children serving as cooks, porters, guards, messengers, medics, servants, or spies. Children are also used as sex slaves, which occurs when armed groups force or coerce children to “marry” or be raped by commanders or combatants. Both male and female children are often sexually abused or exploited by members of armed groups and suffer the same types of devastating physical and psychological consequences associated with sex trafficking.

What is a Child Soldier?

For the purpose of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA), and generally consistent with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the term “child soldier” means:

- i. any person under 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities as a member of governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces;
- ii. any person under 18 years of age who has been compulsorily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces;
- iii. any person under 15 years of age who has been voluntarily recruited into governmental armed forces, police, or other security forces; or
- iv. any person under 18 years of age who has been recruited or used in hostilities by armed forces distinct from the armed forces of a state.

The term “child soldier” includes any person described in clauses (ii), (iii), or (iv) who is serving in any capacity, including in a support role, such as a “cook, porter, messenger, medic, guard, or sex slave.



Image taken from [Al Jazeera](#)

In 2014, Boko Haram, an extremist Islamic sect in Nigeria, kidnapped over 200 girls from a school in Chibok. One survivor, named [Habiba](#), tells of being captured at age 15, locked in a cage for four months, and forced to marry a soldier. She escaped, two months pregnant, and was found on the streets a year later, caring for her baby and two orphans who were boys kidnapped by Boko Haram to be used as child soldiers. Other survivors also told stories of torture, rape, and sexual slavery. One survivor described three girls who attempted to flee but were caught,

flogged, and thrown into a hole. "They told us whosoever cries or begs for them not to be slaughtered will be slaughtered along with them," she said.

Each year, as required by the Child Soldiers Prevention Act (CSPA), the U.S. Department of State compiles a list of foreign governments identified during the previous year as having government armed forces, police, or other security forces, or government-supported armed groups that recruit or use child soldiers. A wide range of sources is used to create the list, including first-hand observation by U.S. government personnel, research and credible reporting from various United Nations entities, international organizations, local and international non-governmental organizations, and international and domestic media outlets. The [2021 TIP Report](#) lists the following 15 countries: **Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Venezuela, and Yemen.**

Pursuant to CSPA, governments identified on the list are subject to restrictions on some kinds of security assistance, such as Foreign Military Financing, International Military Education and Training, and commercial licensing of military equipment. These restrictions commence in the fiscal year following the government being listed in the TIP Report. Beginning October 1, 2021, and effective throughout Fiscal Year 2022, these restrictions will apply to the previously listed countries, absent a presidential waiver, applicable exception, or reinstatement of assistance pursuant to the terms of the CSPA.

You can read two stories from survivors of child soldiering at the U.S. Department of Defense Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Survivor of Human Trafficking [webpage](#).



Image taken from [Human Rights Watch](#)



Interagency Activities

On October 4, 2021, the U.S. State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) announced [nine new awards](#) under the Program to End Modern Slavery (PEMS) in Brazil, Costa Rica, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Tunisia. The State Department also added content for the private security industry to their [Responsible Sourcing Tool](#), which is a resource that provides users with country-specific risk profile meant to inform them of the risks of human trafficking in supply chains.

DoD CTIP Program Office Updates



The CTIP PMO held the Quarterly CTIP Task Force Meeting on October 13, 2021 and had nearly one hundred attendees. LTC Alexander Schneider from the U.S. Army Office of the Judge Advocate General and Guy Surian from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command presented on DoD prosecutions and convictions of traffickers under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), and application of local trafficking law.

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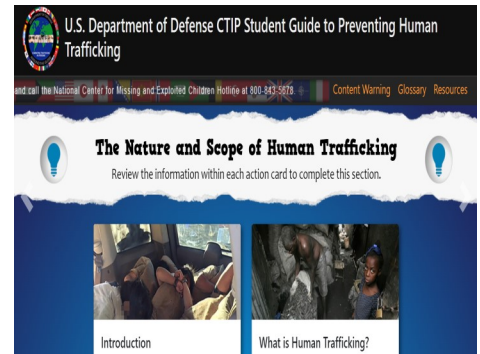
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Additionally, CTIP PMO sponsored research from the Naval Postgraduate School's Capstone Project, led by Maj Daniel Finkenstadt. This year's Capstone students, Capt. Willis Crouch, Lt. Austin (LaDon) Morris, and Lt. Kevin Peaslee, focused on preventing human trafficking in the purchase of goods and services. Their project, titled "The Price of Slavery: An Analysis of Human Trafficking Policy and Spending in Department of Defense Procurement," elicited positive feedback from a number of Task Force attendees.

The CTIP PMO collaborated with Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) to develop a new course, the [CTIP Student Guide to Preventing Human Trafficking](#), which teaches military-connected high school students (10th–12th grade) about human trafficking.



On August 4, 2021, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released the final report, GAO-21-546, [Human Trafficking: DoD Should Address Weaknesses in Oversight of Contractors and Reporting of Investigations Related to Contracts](#). The GAO began this work in response to a Congressional mandate and the final report had six recommendations, three of which pertained to CTIP PMO. As the Primary Action Office for this audit, CTIP PMO submitted the Corrective Action Plan at the end of October.

The CTIP PMO prepared materials addressing the specialized issues of human trafficking in Afghan refugee populations, including a list of signs and indicators of human trafficking for screeners at the 7 bases in the U.S. that are receiving refugees.

Upcoming Events

- The CTIP Self-Assessment is **due back to the CTIP PMO by November 30, 2021**. The Assessment can be submitted through the CATMS tasker, which was sent out on August 19, or emailed to Ms. Dixon (linda.k.dixon7.civ@mail.mil) or Ms. Zurita (brenda.j.zurita.civ@mail.mil)
- The next CTIP Quarterly Task Force meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2022.



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