
SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SUDAN

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Abstract: *Human trafficking is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. It is the fastest-growing illicit industry in the world. This paper attempts to shed light on the socio-economic aspects of human trafficking in the Republic of Sudan. The paper relies heavily on secondary data from textbooks, journals, papers, studies conducted by researchers and websites. The paper finds that common and structural causes of human trafficking include domestic and national violence, lack of human rights, poverty, cultural oppression, lack of opportunity, lawlessness, social instability, military conflict, natural disasters, weak law enforcement and racial and gender biases. Sudan is a source, gateway and destination of human trafficking. As a result of human trafficking, poverty, unemployment, and inequality are all increasing. Trafficking in persons results in loss of human resources and reductions in tax revenue. Further, trafficking in persons redirects the financial benefits of migration from migrants, their families, community and government to traffickers and their associates. Victims of human trafficking are deprived of a family life and cut off from normal social activities for a prolonged period and the stigma the society puts on them tends to delay their progress. It is recommended that, all members of society including native administration should be involved to fight and eliminate human trafficking. It is important to prevent child soldiers and criminalize child prostitution and anti-trafficking law needs to be amended. Capacity of law enforcement*

authorities should be built and awareness campaigns are to be organized. Intensive poverty programs including provision of basic services such as water, sanitation, health, education, etc. are highly needed.

Keywords: *Human trafficking, Smuggling, Socio-economic, Sudan Republic.*

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INTRODUCTION

Sudan is a country in northern Africa. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea, Eritrea and Ethiopia to the east, South Sudan to the south, the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west and Libya to the northeast. Khartoum is the capital of the country which is a sparsely populated with only 33 million people in an area of over 700,000 square miles. Arabic is the major language and Islam is the major religion. The country became independent on first January 1956 and has had several changes in government since then (B.B.C-Sudan Country Profile, 2018).

Human trafficking is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad (<https://www.unodc.org>). Human trafficking is the fastest-growing illicit industry in the world. It includes sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, domestic servitude, forced child labor and the unlawful recruitment of soldiers. Human trafficking is characterized by low costs and high returns. It can happen anywhere as long as the environment contains vulnerable conditions (<https://borgenproject.org>). Human trafficking is either internal or external. Internal trafficking occurs within the shores of a

country for the purpose of domestic labor, child labor, illicit adoption, begging, sexual exploitation, organ harvesting, etc. External trafficking is carried outside the shores of the victim's country for sexual and labor exploitation (Patrica, 2015). Some of the most vulnerable people to trafficking are those who are migrating or displaced. Poverty is a major cause of vulnerability to human trafficking (<https://www.google.com.ng>). Trafficking undermines extended family ties and in many cases, the absence of women leads to the breakdown of families and neglect of children and the aged. Victims who return to home land and communities often find themselves stigmatized and shunned (Wegayehu, 2014). Human trafficking is a growing transnational criminal phenomenon, which has been one of the most challenging consequences of contemporary human insecurity and threats to vulnerable people in the world. Like in any part of the world, human trafficking is not a new phenomenon in the Sub-Saharan African countries but it has been prevalent in the context of trafficking women and children for farm labor, domestic service and prostitution in to and from African countries (Bahlbi, 2016).

Between 2011 and 2012 Sudan saw a major increase in asylum seekers from Ethiopia and Eritrea who were taken against their will and trafficked in the country (<http://wordpress.clarku.edu>). In recent years, Eastern Sudan has witnessed the emergence of a new trend of human trafficking that involves the abduction of refugees from within and around refugee camps in Eastern Sudan to the Sinai Peninsula. This is a relatively new phenomenon in the Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries since the end of slave trade (Bahlbi, 2016), with all the associated negative socio-economic impacts.

The aim of this review paper is to examine the socio-economic impact of human trafficking in Sudan. The rest of the paper is structured into literature review, methodology, Analysis and discussion and conclusion.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Human trafficking is believed to be the third-largest criminal activity in the world after illegal drugs and arms trafficking. Human trafficking has truly become a global threat to vulnerable men, women, and children. Article 3, paragraph (a) of the protocol of the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs" (<https://www.unodc.org>). Human trafficking is the action or practice of illegally transporting people from one country or area to another, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is the trade of humans, most commonly for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others (<https://www.google.com.ng>).

Human smuggling is an aspect of illegal immigration according to United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its protocol on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. Human smuggling is a criminal activity in which persons illegally transport others across international borders. The smuggling of persons may occur with an economic interest in organizing such a crime. The smuggling of persons may occur with or without their consent; however, most of the times such people voluntarily look for smugglers who could take them across international borders (Tolu and Salome, 2015).

Both smuggling and human trafficking are parts of illegal movement of persons and are criminal. In addition, both involve recruitment, movement, and delivery of migrants from origin to destination (Tariku and Gudina, 2014). While human smuggling and human trafficking are linked, there are fundamental differences between the two. Human smuggling involves migrants being facilitated with entry into a State through illegal means whereas trafficking must have the threat of or use of force, coercion or deception against a victim (<https://www.google.com.ng>). In human smuggling a person is willingly transformed into a commodity smuggled in return for money, while human trafficking makes a person a mean for earning money in exchange for manipulation in dubious activities such as prostitution and drug trafficking; this is made coercively and the person is transformed into a state of exploitation (Sudanow, 2015).

In the context of Eastern Sudan, the conceptual and practical distinction is even getting further complicated for there is no clear dichotomy between the concepts, practices, natures, causes and motivations of human smuggling and trafficking. What is seemingly a voluntary and verbal contract between smugglers and smuggled often changes to exploitative and abusive operation during the smuggling process, which is a clear characteristics of trafficking. Human trafficking from Eastern Sudan starts either as a consented human smuggling process which 'evolves into trafficking or it can start straight away as trafficking' which involves coercion, abduction and deception (Bahlbi, 2016).

METHODOLOGY

This paper relies heavily on secondary data. The data used is generated from secondary sources such as textbooks, journals, papers, newspapers, magazines, publications, studies conducted by researchers and websites. Descriptive statistics is used to analyze the data.

Analysis and Discussion

- Identification and Structural Causes of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is basically a development issue. It has certain means, process and purpose (see table 1 below).

Table 1: Identification of Human Trafficking (Process, Means and Purpose)

Process	Means	Purpose
i/Recruitment ii/Transportation iii/Transfer iv/Harboursing v/Receipt of Persons	i/Threat ii/Force iii/Coercion iv/Abduction v/Fraud vi/Deception vii/Abuse of power viii/Abuse of vulnerability ix/Giving and receiving x/payments	Exploitation which includes: i/Prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. ii/Forced labour and services. iii/Slavery and similar practices. iv/Involuntary servitude. v/Removal of organs.

Source: Social Development Notes (2009).

Millions of men, women and children are victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labor and other forms of exploitation worldwide (see table 2 and 3).

Table 2: Human Trafficking Victims Across the Major Types of Exploitation worldwide

Sexual exploitation	Forced labour	Other
79%	18%	3%

Source: Bruce, 2013

Table 2 shows that sexual exploitation accounts for 79% of human trafficking victims and forced labor represents 18%. The remaining 3% includes other activities such as begging and removal of organs.

Table 3: Human Trafficking Victims’ Gender and Age Profile During 2003–2006 worldwide

Year	Female			Male			Children			Adult
	C	A	T	C	A	T	F	M	T	T
2003	11	71	82	3	16	19	11	3	14	87
2004	10	74	84	3	13	16	10	3	13	87
2005	16	66	82	5	14	19	16	5	21	80
2006	13	67	80	9	12	21	13	9	22	79

Source: Bruce, 2013

C: Children, A: Adult, T: Total

Table 3 shows that victims are predominantly adults and the majority of children are females. Females constitute at least 80% of victims in each year.

Human trafficking has common and structural causes. Common causes of human trafficking include violence, lack of human rights, poverty, oppression and lack of opportunity (Borgen Project, 2015). The structural causes of human trafficking are poverty, lawlessness, social instability, military conflict, natural disasters, weak law enforcement and racial and gender biases (Borgen Project, 2015). Slavery has existed in Sudan since as early as the 14th century in the Islamic kingdoms. Branches of this practice still exist today in the form of human trafficking and exploitive labor (Lawrence, 2015). Availability of weapons in the hands of tribesmen, need of refugees to travel to the west and their readiness to pay the costs, presence of people with fast Four-wheel drive cars and vast borders with Ethiopia and Eritrea, contributed to the spread of human trafficking in Sudan (www.sudanknowledge.org). The recent increase in human smuggling and trafficking of asylum seekers and refugees to and from eastern

Sudan is due to harsh and authoritarian treatment and tightly closed borders in Eritrea. This policy is adopted by the Eritrean government to keep the population in. Although smuggling and trafficking are symptoms of insecurity and hostile migration policies at home, they are often portrayed as root causes of the migration problems in Europe (Bahlbi, 2016).

Although Sudanese law prohibits the recruitment of children as combatants and provides criminal penalties for perpetrators, Sudanese children are unlawfully conscripted through abduction and utilized by armed rebel groups in (<https://www.state.gov>). There was unlawful child recruitment by rebel movements among communities of internally displaced persons in South Darfur. Militia groups in Darfur abduct women for short periods of forced labour and to perpetrate sexual violence (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). Sudanese women and girls, particularly those from rural areas or those who are internally displaced, and labour migrants and refugees are also vulnerable to domestic servitude. Sudanese citizens are subjected to forced labour and domestic servitude abroad (<https://www.state.gov>). The U.S. Department of State's 2008 trafficking in persons report revealed that Sudanese women and girls are trafficked to Middle Eastern countries such as Qatar, for domestic servitude (Awadalla and Amira, 2010).

Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Filipina women are subjected to domestic servitude in Sudanese homes. Some of the Bangladeshi adults who migrated legally to Sudan for work in factories, East African and possibly Thai women are subjected to forced prostitution. Street children in Khartoum are particularly susceptible to forced labour including forced begging; some experience sexual abuse and extortion. According to Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2016 trafficking in persons report, Children working in brick-making factories, gold mining, and agriculture are vulnerable to trafficking. Migrants, including some refugees and asylum seekers from East and West Africa, South Sudan, Syria, and Nigeria smuggled into or through Sudan are highly vulnerable to exploitation. Some

refugees and asylum-seekers from Eritrea and Ethiopia are abducted from Sudan-based refugee camps, eastern border regions, and Khartoum and transported to other countries, including Libya, for exploitative purposes. Eritrean nationals are abducted by smugglers primarily linked to the Rashaida tribe (<https://www.state.gov>). Young women from Ethiopia are smuggled to Sudan through arrangements made by their fellow nationals (who are often illegal aliens living in the Sudan or formerly processed refugees who eventually lost their refugee status and remained in the country). These smugglers cover the expenses of travel for the lured women against deferred repayments, and act as worker supply contactors for them to get employed (Awadalla and Amira, 2010).

The Government of Sudan does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so. (<https://www.state.gov>). Sudan won't be able to seriously address human trafficking until it addresses conflict, poverty, and displacement which seriously exacerbate the problem. Sudan has recently taken a good step by enacting anti-trafficking legislation, but the challenge is how to be enforced (UKESSAYS, 2015). The number of kidnappings in Sudan had decreased from 314 documented cases in January–October 2012, to 63 cases in that same period in 2013. The significant drop is a result of Sudanese government efforts which took place recently to prosecute traffickers, and better equipment now used by Sudanese security forces (Aljazeera Media Network, 11 Feb. 2014). The government of Sudan published neither data nor statistics regarding human trafficking in Sudan. The U.S. "Trafficking in Persons Report (June 2016) has placed Sudan with the 27 countries that do not comply with minimum international standards in combating human trafficking (<http://sudantribune.com>).

– Sudan as a Source, Gateway and Destination of Human Trafficking

Sudan is a source country for men, women and children trafficked internally for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Sudan is also a transit and destination country for

Ethiopian women trafficked abroad for domestic servitude. Sudanese women and girls are trafficked within the country, as well as possibly to Middle Eastern countries such as Qatar, for domestic servitude (<https://www.google.com.ng>). Sudanese leave their homes by using international networks looking for better lives abroad and the number of those who used these international smuggling networks to reach Italy between 2014–2015 was about 8370 (Abdelati, 2017). Migrants from the Horn of Africa (i.e. Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia) crossing Sudan in their way towards Europe and Gulf States. Trafficking and smuggling international routes include sea route to Gulf countries, Southern Africa corridor, desert route through Sudan and Libya and Egyptian route. Sudan internal routes involve Khartoum–Port Sudan, Kassala or Gedarif– Butana, Gedarif– Medani, Wađ Al Hiliew–Gedarif, Gedarif– north Butana–Sharg Al Nil, ElGirba–Eddamer or Shendi, Qoz Rajab, Matama– Gallabat–Doka and Gahannam project . The destinations are Khartoum state, Wađi Halfa, Egyptian border and Gedarif state (Abdelati, 2017). See table 4 below.

Table 4: Primary Trafficking and Smuggling Routes from Eastern Sudan

Origin	Transit Area(s)	Destination
Eritrean border	Kassala or Gedarif– Butana	Khartoum state
Eritrean border	Gedarif–Medani	Khartoum state
Eritrean border	Wađ Al Hiliew– Gedarif	Khartoum state
Ethiopian border	Gedarif–northern Butana–Shargs Al Nil	Khartoum state
Kassala state	El Girba–Eddamar or Shendi	Khartoum state
Kassala state	-	Wađi Halfa
Kassala state	Qoz Rajab	Egyptian border
Al Usra	Ghannam project	Gedarif State
Bahardar	Matama– Gallabat–Doka	Gedarif state

Source: Abdelati, 2017

Table 5 below shows the main routes from Khartoum to different destinations such as Egypt and Libya.

Table 5: Primary Trafficking and Smuggling Routes from Khartoum State

Origin	Transit Area(s)	Destination
Khartoum state	Dongola or Al Dabba	Egypt/Libya
Khartoum state	Abu Hamad-Meroe- Al Dabba-Wadi Halfa	Egypt
Khartoum state	Abu Hamad-Meroe- Al Dabba-Al Atroon or Al Khannag-Al Eweinath(in Almuthalath)	Egypt
Khartoum state	Dongola-North Kordofan state- Darfur state	Libya

Source: Abdelati, 2017

- The Case of Eastern Sudan

Eastern Sudan includes the states of Red Sea, Kassala and Gedarf. Eastern Sudan has been a pass way for migrants from the horn of Africa (i.e. Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia) in their way to Europe and or Israel. Human Rights Watch in its 2014 report claims that since 2010 hundreds and possibly thousands of refugees have been kidnapped in Eastern Sudan and sold to traffickers in Egypt's Sienna where they have been held and tortured until their relatives paid thousands of dollars as ransoms to be released (Abdelati, 2017). Human trafficking in east Sudan is committed by criminal networks operating among the refugees (Sudanow, 2015). There is an increase in crimes concerning refugees in eastern Sudan. The number of those who have been abducted for ransom is increasing rapidly. Unlicensed vehicles and motorcycles without plates are used in abduction (Radio Dabanga on 20 August 2017). The economic

problems people face in the refugee camps are stated as the main reason why some people become involved as brokers: 'mostly these people do this as a temporary solution to their financial problems (Rachel, 2013). Sudanese police and border guards allegedly facilitate abductions of Eritrean nationals and allow potential victims to be transported across security checkpoints or international borders without intervention. By the end of 2012, the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, reported that 285,142 Eritreans had been given refuge or other status worldwide. Once they leave Eritrea, the asylum seekers often end up in refugee camps in eastern Sudan. Facing movement restrictions and poor conditions in the camps, and with limited work opportunities, many decide to pay smugglers to take them out of the country. Explosion of human trafficking and smuggling in eastern Sudan is due to regional factors such as tensions and conflicts, tribal and ethnic relationship, weak regional cooperation and commitment and spread of small arms in the region. National factors including characteristics of Sudan's border areas, negative attitude towards refugees, inadequate facilities and refugee protections within camps, inadequate border security, lack of refugee protection outside camps, lack of governmental will and capacity and lack of accurate information and limited capacity of Civil Society Organizations and Non Governmental Organizations(CBOs& NGOs) contributed also to the growth of human trafficking and smuggling.

According to some locals, human trafficking and smuggling started in eastern Sudan in 2005. To obtain freedom from their traffickers, victims pay ransoms. Regarding the instances of human trafficking in Sudan generally and eastern Sudan particularly, the only source of verifiable information is United Nations High Commission of Refugees(UNHCR) and International Organization for Migration(IOM), but even their figures are not accurate(Abdelati, 2017). See table 6 below.

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics of Victims of Trafficking Verified by UNHCR, 2014

Characteristics of Trafficking Victims	
Total victims of trafficking verified	113
Breakdown of verified cases	56 in eastern Sudan, 57 in Khartoum
Average age	18
Unaccompanied minors	24 of 113(21.2%)
Characteristics of Traffickers and the Trafficking Act	
Ethnicity/ nationality of traffickers	Rashaida (first most commonly reported) Eritreans(second), other Sudanese(third).
Most common area for kidnapping in Sudan	Eritrean-Sudanese border
Most common holding locations for victims	Urban areas(e.g. Kassala or Khartoum) and border villages.
Relationship between smuggling and trafficking	25% of the cases were initially reported to be smuggled into Sudan or Khartoum before victims were trafficked.
Prevalence of Gender-Based Violence(GBV)	71% of female victims in eastern Sudan 96% of female victims in Khartoum

Source: UNHCR and IOM, 2014

The author found that other trafficking and smuggling incidents from eastern Sudan have been reported by other sources rather than UNHCR and IOM. Eighty nine incidents were reported by Alsaiha Newspaper , Dabanga Radio, Sudan Tribune Newspaper and Altayar Newspaper(see table 7below).

Table 7: Incidents Reported by Other Sources Rather Than UNHCR and IOM

Source	Number of Incidents	Year
Alsaiha Newspaper	17	2015
Dabanga Radio	65	2015
Sudan Tribune Newspaper	6	2014
Altayar Newspaper	1	2015
Total	89	-

Source: Author's computation

Police in Dongola area captured nearly 3,000 illegal migrants from eastern Sudan between 2013 and 2016 through in a number of operations (see table 8).

Table 8: Returned Smuggled Migrants in Dongola Area (2013-2016)

Source	Number of returned persons
2013	732
2014	500
2015	326
2016	1,300
Total	2858

Source: Police Records, Dongola, Sudan , 2017.

- Social and Economic Impacts of Human Trafficking in Sudan

Human trafficking is one of the social and economic issues in Sudan. Regarding the social impact of human trafficking, Patrica (2015) reported that victims of human trafficking are deprived of a family life and cut off from normal social activities for a prolonged period and the stigma the society puts on them tend to delay their progress. The stigma attached to victims has been shown to have significant and ongoing impact on their lives, including the trauma experienced by the individual victim as well as the possibility of physical rejection by family and/or community. The trauma experienced by victims of

trafficking includes post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, alienation, disorientation, and aggression (United Nations, 2008). The majority of victims who migrate borrow money from other people in the pledge of returning it when they get back. But the real situation in the destination country is not as true as pledged and they come back mentally and physically abused (Gudetu, 2014). Trafficked children's lives are easily shattered from experience. This affects their well-being due to poor living conditions and separation from families. At the end they are traumatized and become threatened and powerless. Victims of trafficking could hardly care for the elderly and their children. In several cases, the forced absence of women leads to the breakdown of families and neglect of children (Gabriel, 2010).

Concerning the economic impact, trafficking is regarded as one of the greatest profit makers for organized crime in Africa (Allais, 2006). Traffickers gain huge amounts of money from victims and their families. Human trafficking generates a regular and stable source of income for criminal net-works and it leads to poverty, unemployment and inequality. It results in loss of human resources and reductions in state revenue while financial benefits are directed from migrants, families and governments to traffickers (United Nations, 2008). Women and men who get trafficked in most cases get back to their country empty handed, because they do not have legal permit for employment and their employers do whatever they like to exploit them. Migrants who get back empty handed, their families and the country as a whole will be affected because migration which was thought to respond to the economic crisis of families and migrants becomes a heavy burden to the entire households and country. To realize the economic demand of themselves and their families, many young migrants are now becoming victims of human trafficking in eastern Sudan. Though trafficking has roots in economic demands of the victims, factors like poor awareness on recruitment processes, preference for quicker method of migration, prevalence of traffickers throughout the country who brainwashes

young girls with false promises, and poor understanding on the risks involved in trafficking intersect and put victims in trafficking networks (Gudetu, 2014) . Victims of human trafficking are smuggled from within Sudan, from the interior of Eritrea and Ethiopia and from Sudan to Libya, Egypt and Israel. There are differences in smuggling costs within and from Sudan to other countries. Land transportation costs ranged between US\$ 750 and 15,000 within Sudan and between US\$ 100 and 1,500 from Eritrea and Ethiopia to Sudan in 2014 - 2016. Land transportation costs from Sudan to Libya, Egypt and Israel ranged between US\$ 1,000 and 15,000 during the same period 2014 -2016 (see tables 9,10,&11 below).

Table 9: Approximate Land Transportation Costs Within Sudan(2014-2016)

Migration Route		Approximate Cost per head(US\$)
Origin	Destination	
Tesseney-Wad Al Hiliew or Gallabat	Gedarif	750-1,500
AL Humera, Ethiopian border	Gedarif	1,950-2,250
Ethiopian Sudanese border	Gedarif or Medani	750-3,000
Kassala/ Gedarif refugee camps	Khartoum	1,200-3,000
Gedarif/ Kassala(15 passengers minibus)	Khartoum	10,500-15,000

Source: Adapted and Modified from Sudan Report on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Eastern Sudan , 2017.

Table 10: Approximate Land Transportation Costs from Eritrea to Sudan(2014–2016)

Migration Route		Approximate Cost per head(US\$)
Origin	Destination	
From Somali border via Ethiopia	Gedarif	1,500
Addis Ababa	Sudanese border	300-500
Asmara Tessenay	Sudanese border	100

Source: Adapted and Modified from Sudan Report on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Eastern Sudan , 2017.

Table 11: Approximate Land Transportation Costs from Sudan to Other Countries (2014–2016)

Migration Route		Approximate Cost per head(US\$)
Origin	Destination	
Khartoum	Libya	1,000
Khartoum	Libya	7,500 (per family of 3-4 individuals)
Dongola	Libya	450-900
Khartoum	Aswan Egypt	1,500-2,000
Khartoum	Israel	15,000

Source: Adapted and Modified from Sudan Report on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in Eastern Sudan , 2017.

CONCLUSION

Human trafficking in Sudan violates the fundamental rights of the victims and affects their normal functioning in the society. It includes sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, domestic servitude, forced child labor and the unlawful recruitment of soldiers. Sudan is a source, gateway and destination of human trafficking. It is a source country for men, women and children trafficked internally for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation. Migrants from the Horn of Africa(i.e. Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia) crossing Sudan in their way towards Europe

and Gulf States. They use internal and international routes to reach their final destinations. Eastern Sudan has been a pass way for migrants from the horn of Africa in their way to Europe and or Israel. Hundreds and possibly thousands of refugees have been kidnapped in eastern Sudan. The structural causes of human trafficking are poverty, lawlessness, social instability, military conflict, natural disasters, weak law enforcement and racial and gender biases .Victims of human trafficking in Sudan are smuggled from within Sudan, from the interior of Eritrea and Ethiopia and from Sudan to Libya, Egypt and Israel. They are deprived of a family life and cut off from normal social activities for a prolonged period and the stigma the society puts on them tend to delay their progress. Victims of human trafficking are traumatized and become threatened and powerless. Traffickers gain huge amounts of money from victims and their families. Human trafficking in Sudan results in loss of human resources and reductions in state revenue while financial benefits are directed from migrants, families and governments to traffickers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that all members of society in Sudan including native administration should be involved to fight and eliminate human trafficking. It is important to prevent child soldiers and criminalize child prostitution. Anti-trafficking law in Sudan needs to be amended to absorb all the new developments concerning human trafficking and smuggling. It is necessary to build the capacity of law enforcement authorities in Sudan to enable them to implement anti-trafficking law perfectly and to identify and provide protective services to trafficking victims. Awareness campaigns are to be organized in all the states of the country to explain the danger of this phenomenon. Efforts should be made by the international community in coordination and cooperation with the Sudanese government to minimize wars and conflicts and this would contribute positively to poverty reduction and hence human trafficking elimination, bearing in mind that poverty is the main cause of human trafficking. Implementation of intensive poverty programs including provision of

basic services such as water, sanitation, health, education, etc. is highly needed.

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