United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Chair: Shalina Effendi

Topic 1: Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa

Topic 2: Illegal arms trading in South America

SINGAPORE

Table of Contents

Welcome to the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice!

Dear Delegates,

It's an honor to welcome you to YMUN Singapore 2024! I am Shalina Effendi, your Chair for the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

I am an undergraduate student from Houston, Texas studying Global Affairs at Yale. I am also a member of MUNTY, Yale's only competitive Model United Nations team. In my free time, I love traveling, grabbing a cup of coffee with friends, or cozying up under a wool blanket with a book on cold winter days. If I am not working on something YMUN-related, you can find me involved with gender equality activism or studying for my next midterm.

I am very excited to chair YMUN Singapore's United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as I believe this is a committee that asks delegates to focus on crime on a global scale that poses a direct threat to vulnerable communities. Our two topics have been specifically selected to provide delegates with different types of international crimes, so I urge you to challenge yourself with understanding these complex issues that will likely require even more complex solutions and international cooperation. I am eager to learn about the impacts and potential solutions to these threats alongside all of you and hope you all enjoy yourselves while researching, writing, and discussing with your fellow delegates. I cannot wait to meet you all in person, and I would also like to remind you that my inbox is open at shalina.effendi@yale.edu for any inquiries or suggestions about what to do in Singapore! Beyond moderating the debate, I

am here to help you, and your comfort is my first priority. It would make me incredibly happy to see my delegates end this conference having had fun, perhaps learned a thing or two, and benefited from the unique cross-cultural exchange that this conference is built on. Welcome again to YMUN Singapore 2024!

Committee History

The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UNCCPCJ) stands as a testament to the international community's commitment to addressing the complex challenges posed by crime and criminal behavior. Established on December 15th, 1991, by the United Nations General Assembly, the commission was founded against the backdrop of a world grappling with evolving forms of criminal activities and the need for a unified approach to prevent and combat crime on a global scale.

Originally envisioned as a temporary body, the UNCCPCJ was mandated to assess and respond to emerging threats to public safety and the rule of law. Over the years, the commission's mandate has been extended and refined to meet the evolving nature of criminal challenges facing the international community. From transnational organized crime to cybercrime, the UNCCPCJ has adapted its focus to address a broad spectrum of criminal activities that transcend borders.

Throughout its history, the UNCCPCJ has achieved significant milestones in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Notable historical moments include the development of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), also known as the Palermo Convention, in 2000. This landmark treaty provides a comprehensive framework for international cooperation in combating organized crime, including provisions for the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of such crimes.

The commission has also played a pivotal role in the establishment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which serves as the UN's main agency in the fight against illicit

drugs, transnational crime, and terrorism. The UNODC works closely with the UNCCPCJ to implement evidence-based strategies for crime prevention, criminal justice reform, and the promotion of the rule of law.

Over the years, the UNCCPCJ has convened numerous sessions, bringing together member states, experts, and civil society organizations to discuss and formulate policies addressing the multifaceted challenges of crime. The commission's commitment to inclusivity and collaboration is evident in its engagement with various stakeholders, fostering a comprehensive and holistic approach to crime prevention and criminal justice.

As the global landscape continues to evolve, the UNCCPCJ remains at the forefront of international efforts to develop effective strategies, promote cooperation, and strengthen the capacity of states to prevent and combat crime. Through its dedication to upholding the principles of justice and the rule of law, the UNCCPCJ stands as a crucial component of the United Nations' broader mission to build a safer and more just world for all.

Committee Structure

The Commission plays a crucial role as the main policymaking body within the United Nations for crime prevention and criminal justice. Its mandates and priorities, outlined in resolution 1992/22 by ECOSOC, focus on enhancing international efforts against both national and transnational crime, as well as improving the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice systems globally. Moreover, the CCPCJ serves as a platform for Member States to exchange expertise, experiences, and information to formulate national and international strategies, identifying key priorities in the fight against crime.

To carry out its functions, the CCPCJ conducts annual regular sessions and intersessional meetings. Towards the end of each year, a reconvened session takes place to address budgetary and administrative matters, solidifying its role as the governing body for the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice program. In 2006, the General Assembly expanded the CCPCJ's mandates through resolution 61/252, enabling it to function as the governing body for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and approve the budget for the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

The CCPCJ also serves as the preparatory body for the United Nations Crime Congresses. Declarations adopted during these congresses are transmitted through the CCPCJ and ECOSOC to the General Assembly for endorsement, ensuring a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing global challenges in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Topic 1: Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa

Introduction

Sub-Saharan Africa is the geographical area of Africa that lies south of the Sahara. According to the United Nations, it consists of all African countries fully or partially located south of the Sahara. This region is unfortunately one of the areas where human trafficking is overwhelmingly prevalent, with numerous cases of forced labor, sexual exploitation, and child trafficking. This issue not only poses a severe threat to the safety and well-being of individuals but also has broader socio-economic and humanitarian implications. In fact, UNODC data suggests that close to 80% of victims in West Africa were trafficked for forced labor, which remains the major form of exploitation in the region.[1] The African Sister Education Collaborative estimates that over 6 million individuals are enslaved in sub-Saharan Africa — roughly 12% of the total enslaved population in the world. Africa also accounts for 8% of global child sex trafficking.[2]

[1] (Coftadeh)
[2] ("Human Trafficking Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa (Infographic): ASEC-SLDI News.")

Widespread corruption in Africa has made human trafficking a low-risk organized crime, making trafficking one of the most lucrative illegal industries and has generated an income of $1.6 billion. According to the UN record, 2.5 million people are in either forced labor or sexual exploitation at any given moment. 5.2% of those people are from sub-Saharan countries — a whopping 130,000 women, children, and men.[3]

Addressing human trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa within the framework of the CCPCJ is of paramount importance, as it falls under the committee's mandate to combat all aspects of crime prevention and highlights the need for international cooperation to tackle this cross-border problem effectively.

History

Modern slavery in sub-Saharan Africa is fueled by multiple factors, including poor economic conditions, violent conflict leading to territorial displacement, and the impact of humanitarian and environmental crises. Countries experience trafficking in two ways: either the victims originate from that nation, or a trafficking circle operates within it. In this particular region, victims come from over 60 countries. Notably, specific countries within the region grapple with disproportionately high rates of modern slavery, with Eritrea (0.90% of the population), Mauritania (0.32% of the population), South Sudan (0.10% of the population), Republic of the Congo (0.08% of the population), and Nigeria (0.07% of the population) standing out as particularly affected.[4] This grave situation calls for urgent attention and concerted efforts to address the root causes and alleviate the suffering of those ensnared in modern slavery in sub-Saharan Africa.

[3] (Philipp)
[4] ("Human Trafficking Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa (Infographic): ASEC-SLDI News.")

The 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report by the U.S. Department of State categorizes countries in Africa into four tiers based on their efforts to meet the minimum standards outlined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Tier 1 includes countries whose governments fully meet the TVPA standards, while Tier 2 comprises nations making significant efforts to comply. The Tier 2 Watch List includes countries not fully meeting standards but actively working towards compliance, with additional criteria such as the significant number of trafficking victims or failure to demonstrate increasing anti-trafficking efforts. Tier 3 consists of countries not meeting minimum standards and lacking significant efforts to do so.

Examining the prevalence of modern slavery in countries served by ASEC, notable statistics emerge. Cameroon, with a prevalence index rank of 44 out of 167, has approximately 155,000 individuals enslaved, accounting for 0.58% of its population. Ghana (71/167) has 91,000 enslaved (0.29% of the population), Kenya (41/167) reports 269,000 enslaved (0.50% of the population), Lesotho (84/167) has 4,000 enslaved (0.18% of the population), and Malawi (35/167) records 93,000 enslaved (0.49% of the population). Nigeria, ranked 32 out of 167, has a staggering 1,611,000 individuals enslaved, making up 0.78% of its population. South Sudan (7/167) reports 115,295 enslaved (1% of the population), Tanzania (51/167) has 171,000 enslaved (0.29% of the population), Uganda (33/167) records 190,000 enslaved (0.42% of the population), and Zambia (60/167) reports 94,000 enslaved (0.51% of the population).[5] These figures underscore the urgency of addressing and combating human trafficking in these nations, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to eradicate modern slavery.

[5] ("Global Slavery Index")

Current Situation

Extent of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Africa, representing 17% of the global population, grapples with modern slavery driven by persistent political instability, poverty, displacement due to conflict and climate change, and the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Human trafficking remains a pervasive issue in Africa, particularly in West African nations such as Nigeria, Niger, Mali, and Senegal. Despite widespread evidence of trafficking and modern-day slavery, there is a notable lack of prosecutions, emboldening traffickers who exploit victims with promises of a better life in Europe. Survivors recount harrowing experiences during their journeys, including lack of basic necessities such as water and food and the prevalence of death, enslavement, and organ theft by criminal groups, known as "Asma boys," in the Sahara desert.[6] Modern slavery exhibits diverse forms across the continent, affecting every country, with higher prevalence linked to compounded vulnerability factors. Forced marriage affects over 3.1 million Africans, with drivers dependent on factors like conflict, poverty, or entrenched traditional practices in specific locations. Forced labor encompasses more than 3.8 million individuals in Africa, with

[6] (Shemang)

heightened risk for those migrating from rural to urban areas in search of employment.[7] Regions in the Sahel experience elevated rates of descent-based slavery and forced begging.

Over the past four years, several African nations have undertaken measures to enhance their response to modern slavery, with Nigeria and South Africa leading in efforts. Conversely, Eritrea and Libya have shown the least progress. Ongoing conflict and significant disruption to government functions led to the exclusion of South Sudan from the assessment of government action. Despite these efforts, there remains a pressing need for increased support for survivors, strengthened legal frameworks, and the development of comprehensive national strategies to effectively combat modern slavery.

In 2021, an estimated 7 million individuals, including men, women, and children, lived in modern slavery in Africa, accounting for a prevalence of 5.2 people per thousand. Africa ranked fourth globally in modern slavery prevalence, following the Arab States, Europe and Central Asia, and Asia and the Pacific. Forced labor was the predominant form of modern slavery in the region, affecting 2.9 individuals per thousand, while forced marriage impacted 2.4 per thousand. Approximately 13% of the global total of forced marriages (3.2 million) were in Africa, and 14% of individuals in forced labor (3.8 million) were also in the region.[8]

Eritrea, Mauritania, and South Sudan exhibited the highest prevalence of modern slavery in Africa, while Mauritius, Lesotho, and Botswana had the lowest. Forced labor, notably in mining, agriculture, fishing, and domestic work, affected nearly 4 million individuals in Africa. Job seekers, deceived by traffickers, often faced forced labor in foreign countries, such as the Gulf states. Children, seeking education, were exploited, as seen in Togo's confiage system and the domestic servitude of Nigerian girls. Forced marriage disproportionately impacted women

[7] (“MODERN SLAVERY IN AFRICA.”)
[8] (“MODERN SLAVERY IN AFRICA.”)

and girls in Africa, with one in every 300 females subjected to it compared to one in every thousand males. Despite being the most reliable estimates to date, these figures are conservative due to gaps in data collection, especially in conflict-ridden regions where national surveys are challenging. Vulnerability to modern slavery is highest in Africa, with South Sudan, Somalia, Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo being the most vulnerable (See table below).[9]

Country	Survivors identified and supported (%)	Criminal justice mechanisms (%)	National and regional level coordination (%)	Risk factors are addressed (%)	Government and business supply chains (%)	Total (%)
Nigeria	68	58	50	57	0	54
South Africa	45	69	63	57	0	53
Rwanda	55	62	38	57	0	50
Tunisia	50	54	50	57	0	47
Kenya	55	50	50	50	0	46
Uganda	50	50	75	43	0	46
Ethiopia	41	54	50	57	0	45
Ghana	45	54	63	36	13	45
Mozambique	50	54	50	43	0	45
Zambia	50	46	50	57	0	45
Angola	59	46	63	29	0	44
Egypt	55	42	38	57	0	44
Namibia	55	46	25	57	0	44
Botswana	32	54	63	50	0	42

Discrimination towards migrants and minority groups, coupled with issues like conflict, political instability, mass displacement, and poverty, contribute to this vulnerability. Governance problems and economic inequality are significant drivers, with political instability, weak rule of

[9] (“MODERN SLAVERY IN AFRICA.”)

law, and corruption increasing the risk. Poverty, accounting for 35% living in Sub-Saharan Africa, drives forced marriages and child labor, with more child laborers in the region than the rest of the world combined in 2020. Conflict exacerbates the situation, with over 24 million internally displaced persons in Sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2020, leading to increased risks of exploitation and abuse. The impact of climate change is anticipated to further displace populations, increasing vulnerability to exploitation in the future.

Response from Authorities and International Cooperation:

Criticism has been directed at the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in Nigeria for perceived inadequacies in combating human trafficking. However, there are collaborative efforts within West Africa, with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member countries working together to address the issue.

International police agencies, including Interpol and the African Police Cooperation Organization (Afripol), have launched Operation FLASH-WEKA, marking the first cooperation between the two entities against human trafficking. Executed in two phases between May and June 2023, this operation engaged law enforcement agencies from 54 countries, emphasizing the crucial role of global cooperation in combating transnational crimes. Noteworthy outcomes included a total of 1,062 arrests, the detection of 2,731 irregular migrants, identification of 823 human trafficking victims, and the seizure of 801 items of criminal merchandise, including stolen firearms and vehicles. [10]

Online recruitment also emerged as a concerning trend, particularly in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, and Mali. Operational focus extended to preventing migrant smuggling across the Mediterranean, leading to the detection of individuals preparing

[10] ("Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling: More than 1,000 Arrests in Joint Interpol-AFRIPOL Operation.")

for illegal crossings in Tunisia and Morocco. The collaboration between INTERPOL and AFRIPOL, supported by various international organizations, not only resulted in significant law enforcement actions but also highlighted emerging trends in the exploitation landscape. The operation underscores the importance of joint efforts in dismantling criminal networks and addressing the global challenges posed by human trafficking and migrant smuggling, demonstrating the power of international cooperation in combating transnational crimes. "FLASH-WEKA" received funding from the German Federal Foreign Office, the European Commission, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, with support from organizations including Europol, IOM, and ROCK (Regional Operational Center in Khartoum).[11]

Government Responses

An evaluation of measures taken against modern slavery in 51 African countries by *Walk Free,* an international human rights group focussed on the eradication of modern slavery, revealed an average score of 36%, the lowest among all regions.[12] While improvements were noted in identification measures and legal frameworks, services for survivors remained lacking, and minimal action was taken to address systemic risk factors. No country has extended efforts to combat modern slavery in government and business supply chains, and South Sudan was excluded due to ongoing conflict. The GDP per capita PPP (current international $) varies widely across the region, with Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, and Tunisia demonstrating the strongest responses. Nigeria (54%), South Africa (53%), and Rwanda (50%) lead in addressing risk factors and providing overseas citizen protection.

[11] (“Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling: More than 1,000 Arrests in Joint Interpol-AFRIPOL Operation.”)
[12] (“MODERN SLAVERY IN AFRICA.”)

Eritrea exhibits the weakest government response to modern slavery in Africa and the second weakest globally (5%), followed by Libya (10%). State-imposed forced labor undermines Eritrea's and Libya's responses, with Eritrean citizens forced into indefinite labor in the national service scheme under threats of torture. In Libya, migrants are trafficked, sold in "slave markets," tortured for ransom, or forced into labor. Several African countries, including Angola and Namibia, have taken steps to enhance their response to modern slavery since the 2018 assessment, introducing national action plans, referral mechanisms, and operational procedures. Despite legal frameworks not fully criminalizing all forms of modern slavery, improvements have occurred in the last four years, with countries adopting international protocols and criminalizing human trafficking. Notably, 48 out of 51 assessed governments provided basic victim identification training to general police, with Mauritania, Libya, and Sudan being exceptions.

Efforts to coordinate responses to modern slavery in Africa have seen some progress, with 12 countries introducing or implementing National Action Plans (NAPs) in the past four years. However, three countries did not renew their previous plans, and 10 still lack formal strategies against modern slavery. Only nine of the 41 countries with NAPs fully funded the activities within them. Approximately half of the assessed African governments provide services to all modern slavery survivors, while 28 ensure child-friendly services. Kenya, for instance, has five child protection centers offering specialized services to child trafficking and labor survivors.[13]

The region weakly addresses risk factors enabling modern slavery, with only five countries ensuring universal access to birth registration systems and healthcare. Child marriage is legally permitted in all countries except a few, like Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Egypt, Ghana,

[13] (U.S. Department of State)

Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Systems for asylum seekers exist in 22 countries, but Northern African nations lack appropriate systems, contributing to the vulnerability of migrants intercepted and returned by coastguards, notably in Libya and Egypt. Corruption and complicity hinder anti-modern slavery efforts in 36 out of 51 countries, with officials committing crimes without accountability. State-imposed forced labor is reported in Libya, Eritrea, Egypt, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe.

Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and the DRC stand out as the only countries in the region identifying high-risk sectors and taking action to combat modern slavery within supply chains. Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire are part of the Harkin-Engel Protocol against child labor in the cocoa sector, and the DRC established a regulatory authority in 2019 to address child labor in cobalt and coltan mines.[14] However, broader actions such as legislation or human rights due diligence laws to ensure the cessation of sourcing goods and services produced by forced labor are yet to be taken by African governments.

State-Sponsored Trafficking

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and the UN TIP Protocol advocate for proactive government actions against trafficking. However, some administrations contribute to the issue by directly coercing their citizens into sex trafficking or forced labor. Officials exploit their power in various ways, such as compelling individuals into forced labor in public projects, military operations, economically significant sectors, or government-funded initiatives abroad. They also engage in sexual slavery within government compounds. Coercion methods include threats of benefit withdrawal, salary withholding, non-compliance with national service limits, manipulation of the legal status of stateless individuals and minority groups, punishment of

[14] ("Africa: Child Labor in Cocoa Fields/ Harkin-Engel Protocol.")

family members, or conditioning of essential services, food, or freedom of movement on labor or sexual exploitation.

In 2019, the U.S. Congress amended the TVPA to recognize that governments can be perpetrators of trafficking, citing a "government policy or pattern" of human trafficking. This encompasses human trafficking in government-funded programs, forced labor in government-affiliated medical services or other sectors, sexual slavery in government facilities, or the recruitment of child soldiers. While the TVPA already mandates the U.S. Secretary of State to consider officials' involvement in trafficking when determining tier rankings, the new amendment more explicitly links government participation in trafficking to a Tier 3 ranking.

The 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report, published by the U.S. State Department, identifies 11 governments with documented instances of a "policy or pattern" involving human trafficking, trafficking in government-funded programs, forced labor in government-affiliated medical services or other sectors, sexual slavery in government facilities, or the recruitment of child soldiers.[15] Of these 11 nations, two are located in sub-Saharan Africa: Eritrea and South Sudan. Special consideration needs to be taken when addressing the issue of combating HT/MS in these nations.

Tier Placements:

As mentioned in the “History” section, there are 3 categories of countries regarding Human Trafficking levels. Tier 1 is made of countries that fully meet TVPA standards for the elimination of trafficking. Tier 2 consists of countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards. Tier 3 is made of Countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

[15] (U.S. Department of State)

The amended version of the TVPA lists the following as requirements for a nation to be categorized as Tier 1:

1. The government of the country should prohibit severe forms of trafficking in persons and punish acts of such trafficking.
2. For the knowing commission of any act of sex trafficking involving force, fraud, coercion, or in which the victim of sex trafficking is a child incapable of giving meaningful consent, or of trafficking which includes rape or kidnapping or which causes a death, the government of the country should prescribe punishment commensurate with that for grave crimes, such as forcible sexual assault.
3. For the knowing commission of any act of a severe form of trafficking in persons, the government of the country should prescribe punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter and that adequately reflects the heinous nature of the offense.
4. The government of the country should make serious and sustained efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons.

Outlook:

While progress is being made through Operation FLASH-WEKA, challenges persist, including a lack of awareness about prosecutions. Experts stress the importance of continued international cooperation to dismantle trafficking networks and rescue victims. The situation underscores the urgency for governments to prosecute traffickers and serve as a deterrent to curb the dangerous trend on the rise in Africa.

Blocs/Positions

The following are positions of some of the nations represented in this committee. Delegates should consider the interests of their country in relation to human trafficking in a similar manner, as well as conducting independent research.

South Africa

The South African government has made significant efforts to combat human trafficking, securing convictions for traffickers, including complicit officials. Despite progress, challenges remain, such as a lack of coordination among agencies responsible for victim identification and referral. South Africa is on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year due to issues like the non-enactment of immigration provisions, hindering foreign victims' access to remedies. Recommendations include increasing investigations of officials involved in trafficking, enhancing law enforcement training, and passing immigration provisions.

In prosecution, the government maintained efforts, criminalizing trafficking with stringent penalties. However, the lack of promulgation of immigration provisions' implementing regulations persisted. While the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation initiated trafficking case investigations, the number decreased. Challenges included insufficient resources, inadequate training, and reliance on victim testimony for prosecutions. Efforts to establish confidential reporting mechanisms and collaborate with other countries were noted. South Africa's fight against human trafficking requires ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination, enhance law enforcement capacity, and address systemic issues for a more effective response.

Central African Republic

While the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) is actively working to address human trafficking, it falls short of meeting the minimum standards for elimination.

Despite increased efforts compared to the previous reporting period, considering the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CAR maintains its Tier 2 status. Notably, the government intensified its investigations into trafficking cases, securing the conviction of a trafficker for the first time in five years. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for identifying and referring trafficking victims were finalized, and a new hotline addressing violence against women, including trafficking, was launched. However, critical areas still need improvement, such as inadequate victim services and concerns about the unlawful recruitment and use of a child by Central African Armed Forces (FACA) officers. Additionally, the pending anti-trafficking legislation was not finalized during the reporting period, and official complicity in human trafficking remains a significant concern.

Libya

In Libya, the fight against human trafficking is impeded by a lack of institutional capacity, particularly in law enforcement, customs, and military personnel, especially along the country's borders. While some forms of sex trafficking are criminalized, labor trafficking lacks legal consequences. The criminal judicial system is not fully operational, lacking dedicated units and courts for handling human trafficking cases. Authorities often struggle with a limited understanding of human trafficking crimes. The Ministry of Interior, tasked with anti-trafficking law enforcement, faces constraints in conducting operations. Despite the issuance of arrest warrants by entities like the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General, a shortage of policing capacity hampers the pursuit of trafficking cases. Arrests reported by an international organization in 2022 lack clarity regarding their nature, whether related to trafficking or smuggling. Human rights offices within the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice, while functional, lack the capacity to effectively raise awareness of human rights

violations, including trafficking. Perpetrators, including those involved in human trafficking, often act with impunity due to inadequate legal frameworks and weak capacities for investigations and prosecutions. The government has not publicly disclosed statistics on the prosecution or conviction of trafficking offenders, government officials, or government-aligned militias allegedly complicit in trafficking. Despite efforts from international organizations and foreign governments to provide anti-trafficking training, challenges persist in addressing human trafficking effectively.

Nigeria

While the Government of Nigeria is actively working towards eliminating trafficking, it falls short of meeting the minimum standards for such efforts. Notably, the government has increased its anti-trafficking endeavors compared to the previous reporting period, despite potential impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining its Tier 2 classification. These efforts encompass intensified investigations into traffickers, including officials possibly complicit in trafficking, leading to increased prosecutions and convictions. Additionally, there's an evident commitment to identifying more victims and ensuring their referral to appropriate care facilities. The government has also finalized and implemented a handover protocol, specifically addressing the referral of child soldiers, including some who are victims of trafficking, to proper care. To enhance victim support, the national referral mechanism (NRM) has been updated to include guidance on aiding individuals with disabilities, and a disability inclusion plan has been adopted. However, notable shortcomings persist. Corruption remains a significant challenge within the judiciary and immigration services, contributing to the impunity enjoyed by traffickers. The government has yet to initiate investigations or prosecutions against any members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) for their past forced recruitment or use of

child soldiers. Furthermore, concerns persist about potential sex trafficking within government-managed IDP camps.

Eritrea

Eritrea, despite potential impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to fall short of meeting the minimum standards for eradicating trafficking and fails to exhibit significant efforts to do so, maintaining its Tier 3 status. Throughout the reporting period, the government consistently enforced forced labor policies within its compulsory National Service, local citizen militia, and public works initiatives. Citizens were compelled to serve under these programs for undetermined or arbitrary durations, with the government neglecting to demobilize individuals after their mandatory service period. Instead, citizens faced the prospect of indefinite service, enforced through threats of detention, torture, or reprisals against their families. Moreover, the government implemented policies promoting the mobilization of children for forced labor, particularly in public works projects, notably the Maetot program within the agricultural sector during the student summer work initiative. There were no discernible efforts by the government to address human trafficking concerns. As a result, Eritrea remains classified under Tier 3 in the anti-trafficking ranking.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can nations address the root causes of human trafficking, such as poverty, political instability, and lack of education?
2. What steps can be taken to lower the rate of people being trafficked across borders?
3. In what ways are law enforcement agencies in Africa trained and equipped to identify, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking cases?

4. What legal frameworks and policies can African countries establish to prosecute and convict individuals involved in human trafficking, including government officials?
5. What support and services should be made available for trafficking survivors?
6. In what ways can governments collaborate with NGOs and civil society to provide comprehensive care?

Important Resources for Research:

1. https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/
2. https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/findings/regional-findings/africa/#footnote:53
3. https://unu.edu/cpr/news/analysing-coverage-human-trafficking-and-modern-slavery-risks-sub-saharan-africa
4. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3105245

Topic 2: Illegal arms trading in South America

Introduction

The illicit arms trade poses a significant threat to global peace and security, fuelling conflicts, terrorism, and violence worldwide, but especially in South and Central America, where drug cartels survive and thrive through their direct link to this industry. The United States is no innocent bystander — An estimated 200,000 or more weapons are bought in the United States each year and trafficked to Mexico through “straw purchasers” who buy the weapons at arms stores or fairs. In numerous countries, regional and international organizations have actively supported the disposal of surplus weapons. In Argentina, over 40,000 weapons were eliminated between 2020 and 2022, contributing to a cumulative total of more than 400,000 since the year 2000. However, despite endeavors to enhance the annual count of seized weapons, more proactive measures are required.

By discussing this topic, delegates will have the opportunity to explore and propose innovative solutions to combat the proliferation of illegal arms, strengthen international cooperation, and prevent the devastating consequences of arms trafficking. Addressing this pressing issue is critical, seeing as it is directly aligned with the CCPCJ's mandate to address various aspects of crime prevention. It offers a platform for intermediate-level delegates to engage in substantive debates, fostering a deeper understanding of the multifaceted challenges related to this issue. Moreover, it underscores the commission's crucial role in cooperating with other U.N. bodies to address pressing global concerns.

History

The influx of small arms in Latin America, primarily fueled by the Cold War dynamics, has left a lasting impact on the region. Both superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, contributed significantly to the proliferation of weapons during the Central American civil wars in the 1980s. The legacy of this era persists as caches of Cold War-origin weapons continue to be discovered. In 2005, legal imports of small arms to Latin America amounted to at least $175 million, with the United States emerging as the main supplier.[16]

According to the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers, major arms suppliers to Latin America in 2005 included the United States, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Italy, Russia, South Africa, and Spain. Notably, the U.S. supplied almost $50 million worth of small arms to the region, with Colombia being the largest recipient. Venezuela, in a controversial move, purchased 100,000 AK-47s from Russia, highlighting the diverse sources of arms.

[16] (Tuttle)

While several Latin American countries produce small arms to some extent, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile were the leading producers and exporters in 2005. However, the overall scale of small arms production in the region remains relatively small, constituting only about 4% of global production. Brazil, in collaboration with Russia, initiated the construction of factories in Venezuela for producing AK-103 assault rifles, raising concerns about potential diversions to Colombian guerrillas.

In addition to official arms transfers, the illicit small arms trade thrives in Latin America. The region's geographical features, including vast coastlines, dense forests, porous borders, and widespread corruption, create an ideal environment for smuggling. The triborder area of Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina, valued at $2 to $3 billion annually, has become a hotspot for illicit activities, with Hezbollah playing a significant role in smuggling operations.

Since the late 1990s, Latin American leaders have recognized the need to address the challenges posed by the illicit arms trade. Committing to agreements such as the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms and the Arms Trade Treaty, countries aim to establish national control systems, regulate firearms dealers, mark and trace firearms, and enhance regional and international cooperation to investigate and prosecute those involved in illicit trafficking.

The proliferation of small arms in Latin America, rooted in Cold War geopolitics, continues to pose significant challenges to the region's stability. While efforts have been made to address the issue through international agreements, the thriving illicit trade underscores the complex nature of the problem. Ongoing collaboration and commitment from regional stakeholders are crucial to curbing the multifaceted impact of small arms proliferation in Latin America.

Current Situation

The most significant menace to public safety in Latin America and the Caribbean arises from small arms and gun violence. Following decades of unregulated proliferation, a staggering 45 million to 80 million small arms and light weapons, such as handguns, assault rifles, grenades, grenade launchers, and even man-portable surface-to-air missiles, are in circulation across the region. Gunfire claims the lives of 73,000 to 90,000 individuals annually in Latin America, making guns the primary cause of death among those aged 15 to 44, according to estimates from the World Health Organization.[17]

Crime rates are surging in Latin America. In Ecuador, homicides experienced a significant decline until 2016, but in 2021, the murder rate increased from 6 to 15 per 100,000 inhabitants and further spiked to 26 in 2022. Jamaica approached a homicide rate of 50, while Honduras estimated a rate of 36 in 2022. For comparison, the United States has a homicide rate of 6. A primary driver behind this surge in armed violence is the diversion and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) across the region, responsible for over 60% of homicides. The origin of these weapons and effective measures to curb their illegal trade pose significant challenges. Latin America does not constitute a substantial market for the transfer of conventional military weapons. While international arms transfers in South America decreased over the past five years, Brazil experienced a 48% increase in imports from 2017 to 2022. Only a handful of countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, produce SALW and ammunition in the region.[18]

Contrary to the United States, the region has stringent regulations governing civilian possession of weapons. This is particularly evident for military-style firearms, such as the AR-15

[17] (Tuttle)
[18] ("Behind a Rise in Latin America's Violent Crime, a Deadly Flow of Illegal Guns.")

rifle commonly used by Mexican drug cartels. Most countries require licenses for gun purchases, incorporating various prerequisites like psychological evaluations and criminal background checks. Additionally, restrictions on the number and types of guns civilians can acquire are imposed.

Despite these regulations, millions of weapons circulate in the region, resulting in devastating consequences. In 2018, an estimated 60 million firearms were in civilian hands, both legally and illegally owned. Bolivia, Colombia, and Mexico have more unregistered weapons than registered ones. Argentina and Brazil exhibit a similar balance between registered and unregistered weapons. Approximately 8.8 million SALW are part of law enforcement and military inventories. While the number of firearms owned by private security companies is challenging to ascertain, an estimate of 600,000 was suggested in 2015.

Origin of Weapons

Currently, a significant portion of the legal weapons circulating in Latin America originates from the United States, Europe, or the emerging regional arms industry. Due to the lack of complete transparency in the international small-arms trade, coupled with a substantial illicit trade, it becomes challenging to ascertain the types and quantities of weapons imported by Latin American countries. The predominant black-market arms-trafficking network in the region plays a crucial role in the ongoing armed conflict in Colombia, contributing to an informal arms race among paramilitaries, guerrillas, and private citizens. There is anecdotal evidence suggesting that substantial quantities of small arms, destined for Colombian guerrillas and paramilitaries, make their way to Central America through sea routes, with Panama serving as the primary transit hub. A RAND study has identified 37 trafficking routes from Panama into Colombia, along with 26 from Ecuador, 21 from Venezuela, and 14 from Brazil.

The U.S.-Mexican border is also a key pathway for illicit small arms entering Latin America. A study released by the Mexican government estimates that up to 2,000 guns cross the U.S.-Mexico border on a daily basis. Similar to the situation in Colombia, these weapons contribute to an arms race, particularly among Mexican drug cartels, resulting in the loss of 4,000 lives in 18 months. Notably, weapons such as AK-47s, AR-15s, and M-16s fetch prices up to three times their U.S. market value in Mexico, ensuring a continuous southward flow of arms.

Illicit channels to the black market are established through the use of counterfeit end-user certificates, often in collaboration with corrupt officials. This was evident in the case of over 7,000 AK-47s procured from Bulgaria by Colombia's AUC in 1999, as well as the acquisition of 3,000 AK-47s and ammunition by a Nicaraguan company, later diverted to Colombian paramilitary groups. Frequently, diversion stems from official military and law enforcement inventories. Instances documented in Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, and Venezuela highlight the significant role of corruption within military and security forces, facilitating the redirection of legally obtained weapons to organized criminal groups in the region.

Additionally, weapons diversion occurs through private security firms, which have seen a surge in growth due to the worsening security conditions in many regional countries. According to data from Brazil's Federal Police, over 12,000 weapons were either stolen or reported as missing from the stockpiles of private security companies between 2017 and 2021.

Methods

Criminal organizations employ four primary strategies to acquire firearms from the United States. The initial method involves utilizing "straw buyers," individuals with legal identification and no felony record who are compensated to purchase firearms on behalf of someone else. The second method exploits a loophole allowing individuals to sell firearms

without the requirement of being licensed dealers. This may involve individuals posing as private collectors while engaging in illegal buying and selling of guns. The third approach is theft, which can occur either from civilians or pilfered from the military and police forces of various nations. Corruption within these military units also contributes to the illegal sale of firearms, sometimes involving weapons previously confiscated from criminals. The fourth method pertains to the emerging issue of "ghost guns," not exclusively referring to 3D-printed firearms but also encompassing firearm parts sourced from kits and subsequently assembled.

In Latin America, aside from international smuggling, the diversion of locally produced firearms and privately owned stocks contributes to the problem of illicit ownership. Brazil, in particular, relies significantly on domestic production, with approximately 80% of illegal guns in Rio de Janeiro being made within the country, according to the Small Arms Survey. Police records from April 1999 to June 2005 show that 72% of illegal firearms seized in Brazil during that period were domestically manufactured. Many of these firearms initially entered the legal market but were later diverted to illicit channels through various means such as sale, trade, or theft.[19]

Craft production, involving the crude and small-scale handmade production of weapons, has been observed in Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, and El Salvador, further fueling the illicit arms trade. In Chile, craft production is economically insignificant but serves as a source of weapons for criminal groups. Street gangs often use homemade firearms, referred to as armas hechizas, for local criminal activities. Although these weapons are not exported, they are regularly used by groups facing challenges in acquiring firearms due to limited supplies and strict legal restrictions on gun purchases. In some parts of Central America, youth gangs assemble makeshift pistols from bedsprings and metal tubing. Informal workshops in Santa Ana,

[19] (Shuldiner)

El Salvador, are capable of producing imitations of .22- and .38-caliber pistols. More sophisticated and larger-scale craft production has also been noted, with groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and Colombian drug cartels producing 9 mm submachine guns since the 1990s, mimicking the U.S.-made Intratec 9, commonly known as the Saturday Night Special. Similar types of craft production have emerged in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil.

Law Enforcement Efforts

In the early months of 2012, a law enforcement operation focused on curbing firearms trafficking across South America successfully seized thousands of illicit firearms. This initiative also yielded global intelligence on crime networks and smuggling routes. Recent international collaboration, involving INTERPOL and law enforcement agencies across the region, resulted in the apprehension of around 14,000 individuals and the confiscation of 8,263 illegal firearms, accompanied by 305,000 rounds of ammunition. Between 2016 and 2020, approximately 425,000 unlawful weapons were confiscated throughout the region.[20]

A comparable operation in 2021 led to the arrest of 4,000 suspects and the seizure of over 200,000 illicit firearms, components, parts, and ammunition. Coordinated by INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), this joint operation, named Operation Trigger VI, saw the apprehension of multiple suspects and the confiscation of illegal weapons across countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France (French Guiana), Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Operation Trigger VI also facilitated the identification of new regional trends that will aid in preventing, uncovering, and prosecuting criminal activities in the future. Notable trends include an increase in the circulation of hard-to-trace weapons, such as handmade weapons,

[20] ("South American Crackdown on Illegal Gun Trade Reveals Serious Trafficking despite Pandemic.")

ghost guns, replica weapons, and those with obliterated serial numbers. Additionally, there is a surge in social media content encouraging the use of firearms in criminal acts. Operation Trigger VI also revealed that firearms frequently travel from Asia, Europe, and North America to South America through mail, with their components spread among different parcels. Subsequently, these parts are reassembled for criminal use. Small arms play a crucial role in various forms of violent crime, including gang intimidation, human trafficking, and terrorism linked to the illegal drug trade. Additionally, there has been a noticeable rise in domestic violence and violence against women involving firearms, emphasizing the importance of promoting gender mainstreaming at both policy and operational levels. Smugglers exploit South America's extensive coastline, densely forested mountains, and numerous clandestine airstrips to transport stolen firearms illegally into and out of the continent.

Government Efforts against Illicit Activity

The Mexican government initiated legal action in a U.S. federal court against various American firearm manufacturers, including Smith & Wesson, Colt, and Glock in 2021. The lawsuit aimed to attribute responsibility to these companies for their alleged contribution to the continuous drug-related violence in Mexico. Despite the dismissal of the case in 2022, Mexico has now lodged an appeal. Additionally, CARICOM states have responded to the issue of illicit weapon trafficking by suggesting a prohibition on the public use of assault weapons.

In the United States, a recently enacted law, known as the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, has strengthened the ability of U.S. prosecutors to combat gun trafficking. This law, signed by President Joe Biden in June 2022, imposes harsher penalties on individuals involved in the illicit flow of weapons from the United States to Mexican drug cartels. The drug cartels utilize these weapons to safeguard their drug smuggling operations, contributing to an overdose

epidemic that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Americans. In the year since its enactment, the Justice Department reports having charged over 100 individuals under the provisions of this law related to gun trafficking and straw purchasing. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act marks a significant milestone as the first major overhaul of U.S. gun safety laws since the federal assault weapons ban of 1994. Notably, the legislation introduces a distinct firearms-trafficking conspiracy offense, carrying a potential prison sentence of up to 15 years. Additionally, it criminalizes straw purchasing, the act of buying a firearm on behalf of someone legally prohibited from making such a purchase.[21]

Refugee Crisis

Violence caused by illegal weapons in the hands of gangs in South America has effects that go far beyond the borders of any one nation. According to the UN Refugee Agency, over a million individuals in Central America were displaced from their residences in 2022 due to violence, insecurity, and persecution, primarily instigated by criminal organizations. Countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras grapple with some of the world's highest rates of violence. However, Honduras stands as the primary origin for the largest influx of refugees at the southern U.S. border.[22] This overarching conversation emphasizes that the issue of US-Mexico gun trafficking is merely a singular illustration of a more extensive challenge. The chaos and fear fueled, at least in part, by the illicit trade of US firearms prompt individuals to seek refuge in the United States from the instability in Latin America and the Caribbean, seeking a comparatively safer environment.The prevalence of gang violence, political instability, threats, extortion, persecution, and sexual violence has compelled hundreds of thousands to abandon their homes in

[21] (Farivar)
[22] (Sedlar)

pursuit of safety and a brighter future. Around 665,200 people are seeking refuge in neighboring nations, while over 318,000 are internally displaced within the region.[23]

The asylum systems in Central America and Mexico faced the challenge of handling a rising number of asylum claims. Mexico, in particular, stands among the top countries globally in receiving asylum applications, with 118,800 new claims registered by the conclusion of 2022.

Blocs/Positions

Brazil

For numerous years, Brazil has been a significant player in the dynamics of international illicit markets. In 2021, the Global Organized Crime Index positioned the country as the 22nd in the world for criminality and the 11th for illegal markets. Whether these markets revolve around the trafficking of drugs, firearms, humans, or wild animals, they consistently lead to violence. The recent history of Brazil and greater Latin America underscores that the ready availability of firearms and ammunition often contributes to a substantial death toll resulting from such violence.

United States

Criminals in Latin America and the Caribbean find it easy to acquire firearms from the United States due to continuous efforts by US gun-rights extremists to weaken gun safety laws. The US Department of Justice notes the absence of a specific federal statute addressing firearms trafficking, relying on peripheral laws to combat this issue. Despite the Second Amendment's mention of a need for well-regulated guns, recent decisions by the US Supreme Court have eroded the government's regulatory authority, disregarding the literal language of the amendment.

[23] ("Central America Refugee Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News: USA FOR UNHCR.")

Between 2014 and 2017, approximately 45 percent of the firearms submitted by Honduras to the ATF for tracing were confirmed to be manufactured or sold in the United States. This influx of American guns not only undermines the Mexican government's ability to ensure the safety of its citizens but also hampers efforts to prosecute crime. Furthermore, US-sourced firearms are being used to target journalists reporting on crime in Mexico, posing a serious threat to their lives.

Mexico

Mexico attempted to stop the “iron river” of gun flowing into their country through their 2021 suit against the United States. While it was unsuccessful, the Government of Mexico remains committed to curbing the illicit arms trade into their territory, saying they will push for the US to increase border surveillance. Mexico is also looking to collaborate with the European Union. Mexico acknowledges the European Union's dedication to enhancing control over the export of military technology and equipment under the Common Foreign and Security Policy. This involves establishing, maintaining, and implementing high common standards for managing the transfer of military technology, including Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), among all member states. Mexico affirms its backing for the exchange of experiences regarding potential instances of legal exports from the European Union to Mexico, aligned with national legislation, which may have later been diverted for illicit purposes.

Honduras

Honduras is plagued by one of the world's highest homicide rates, with firearms being involved in 75 percent of these incidents. An investigation conducted by InSight Crime and Transparency International Honduras (also known as La Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa) has revealed that a significant number of these weapons originate from the stockpiles of

the Honduran military and police. Members of the military and police have the ability to extract weapons and ammunition from storage facilities and illicitly sell them on the black market. Moreover, the military's arms retailer operates with impunity, selling any type and quantity of weapons to anyone without facing accountability. This is facilitated by the absence of a transparent system for registering and monitoring confiscated or legally acquired weapons. Furthermore, civilians and businesses have the option to purchase weapons directly from the military without the obligation to register these acquisitions with the police. The Honduran government has recently increased surveillance for arms trafficking at its borders proposed increasing the maximum prison term for possession of an illegal weapon to 12 years.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the primary sources of illegal arms in South America, and how have historical factors, including the Cold War, contributed to the proliferation of small arms in the region?
2. How do legal arms, especially those from the United States and Europe, end up being diverted into the illicit arms trade in South America, and what steps can be taken to enhance the transparency of international small-arms transactions?
3. What are the key trafficking routes and networks facilitating the illegal arms trade in South America, particularly in regions affected by armed conflicts such as Colombia and areas with high drug-related violence like the U.S.-Mexican border?
4. In what ways does domestic production, including craft production, contribute to the illicit arms trade in South America, and how can governments address this challenge effectively?

5. How have recent law enforcement operations, such as Operation Trigger VI coordinated by INTERPOL, impacted the illegal arms trade in South America, and what strategies have proven successful in combating transnational arms trafficking and can be used in future operations?
6. What emerging trends and concerns have been identified in recent operations related to the illegal arms trade in South America, and how can governments adapt their strategies to address these evolving challenges?
7. How does the illicit arms trade exacerbate violent crime, including gang-related activities, human trafficking, and terrorism in South America, and what comprehensive measures can be implemented to curb its detrimental effects?
8. What role do global organizations, such as the United Nations and INTERPOL, play in fostering international collaboration to combat the illegal arms trade in South America, and how can these organizations strengthen their efforts to address this transnational issue?

Important Resources for Research

1. www.americasquarterly.org/article/behind-a-rise-in-latin-americas-violent-crime-a-deadly-flow-of-illegal-guns/#:~:text=A%20chief%20factor%20behind%20this,for%20over%2060%25%20of%20homicides.
2. insightcrime.org/news/across-the-americas-governments-aim-to-rein-in-flow-of-guns/
3. www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2021/April/south-american-crackdown-on-illegal-gun-trade-reveals-serious-trafficking-despite-pandemic.html.
4. nacla.org/article/small-arms-trade-latin-america

Bibliography

Topic 1

"Africa: Child Labor in Cocoa Fields/ Harkin-Engel Protocol." Africa: Child Labor in Cocoa Fields/ Harkin-Engel Protocol, 8 July 2011, www.ilo.org/africa/technical-cooperation/accel-africa/WCMS_159486.

Coftadeh. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Human Trafficking in West Africa: Three out of Four Victims Are Children Says UNODC Report*, www.unodc.org/nigeria/en/press/human-trafficking-in-west-africa_-three-out-of-four-victims-are-children-says-unodc-report.html#:~:text=UNODC%20data%20suggests%20that%20close,of%20exploitation%20in%20the%20region. Accessed 17 Jan. 2024.

"Global Slavery Index." Walk Free, 2 May 2023, www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/map/.

"Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling: More than 1,000 Arrests in Joint Interpol-AFRIPOL Operation." INTERPOL, www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/Human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling-more-than-1-000-arrests-in-joint-INTERPOL-AFRIPOL-operation. Accessed 17 Jan. 2024.

"Human Trafficking Trends in Sub-Saharan Africa (Infographic): ASEC-SLDI News." ASEC, African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), 11 Jan. 2024, asec-sldi.org/news/current/human-trafficking-sub-saharan-africa/#:~:text=An%20estimated%206.04%20million%20individuals,the%20total%20global%20enslaved%20populatio

n.&text=Africa%20accounts%20for%208%25%20of%20child%20sex%20trafficking%20in%20the%20world.

"MODERN SLAVERY IN AFRICA." Walk Free, 13 Sept. 2023, www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/findings/regional-findings/africa/.

Philipp, Jennifer. "The Issue of Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa." The Borgen Project, Jennifer Philipp https://borgenproject.org/wp-content/uploads/logo.jpg, 22 Nov. 2020, borgenproject.org/human-trafficking-in-sub-saharan-africa/.

Shemang, Ben, and Mimi Mefo Takambou. "Human Trafficking a Growing Menace for Africa – DW – 07/28/2023." Dw.Com, Deutsche Welle, 2 Dec. 2023, www.dw.com/en/human-trafficking-a-growing-menace-for-africa/a-66369429.

U.S. Department of State - United States Department of State, www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/TIP_Report_Final_20210701.pdf. Accessed 17 Jan. 2024.

Topic 2

"Behind a Rise in Latin America's Violent Crime, a Deadly Flow of Illegal Guns." Americas Quarterly, 18 May 2023, www.americasquarterly.org/article/behind-a-rise-in-latin-americas-violent-crime-a-deadly-flow-of-illegal-guns/#:~:text=A%20chief%20factor%20behind%20this,for%20over%2060%25%20of%20homicides.

"Central America Refugee Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News: USA FOR UNHCR." USA for UNHCR. The Un Refugee Agency, www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/central-america/. Accessed 17 Jan. 2024.

Farivar, Masood. "US Uses New Law to Target Gun Trafficking to Mexico." Voice of America, Voice of America (VOA News), 15 June 2023, www.voanews.com/a/us-uses-new-law-to-target-gun-trafficking-to-mexico/7138186.html

Sedlar, Matt. "How US Guns Destabilize Latin America and Fuel the Refugee Crisis." Center for Economic and Policy Research, 26 July 2022, cepr.net/how-us-guns-destabilize-latin-america-and-fuel-the-refugee-crisis/.

Shuldiner, Henry and Anastasia Austin. "Across the Americas, Governments Aim to Rein in Flow of Guns." InSight Crime, 13 Oct. 2023, insightcrime.org/news/across-the-americas-governments-aim-to-rein-in-flow-of-guns/.

"South American Crackdown on Illegal Gun Trade Reveals Serious Trafficking despite Pandemic." United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime, www.unodc.org/unodc/frontpage/2021/April/south-american-crackdown-on-illegal-gun-trade-reveals-serious-trafficking-despite-pandemic.html. Accessed 17 Jan. 2024.

Tuttle, Rachel Stohl and Doug. "The Small Arms Trade in Latin America." NACLA, nacla.org/article/small-arms-trade-latin-america. Accessed 17 Jan. 2024.