

# Human Trafficking and Smuggling: the Process, the Actors and the Victim Profile

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## Introduction

As this millennium moves forward, we face an important challenge of illegal human mobility, including irregular migration, illegal migration of labour, illegal migrant smuggling, human smuggling and trafficking and trafficking of women. These actions cause human-right abuses and pose threats to human security. The smuggling and trafficking of human beings has increased throughout the world, owing to this globalisation process and other factors. The problem is exacerbated in size and seriousness by the growing involvement of organised crime groups. The smuggling of migrants by these organised crime groups disrupts established immigration policies of destination countries and often involves human rights abuses. The exploitative nature of the treatment of the victims of trafficking often amounts to new forms of slavery.

One crucial factor fostering the illegal trafficking of humans is organised crime. Organized crime cells facilitate the trafficking of humans and by providing illegal employment. Human smuggling, trafficking and illegal migrant work force are inter-related. Smuggled and trafficked people work illegally in the destination and sometimes in the transit country depending on how much time they spent in the transit country.

Illegal human mobility, in the forms described above, threatens security in the region and in the European Union. Smuggling networks coexist with criminal organisations, exerting a crime multiplier for them and for militias, guerrillas and terrorists.<sup>1</sup> They survive better in cities where

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<sup>1</sup> For the connection between terrorist organisations and human smuggling networks see, James H. Anderson, *International Terrorism and Crime: Trends and Linkages* Anderson wrote: All terrorist groups traffic in violence. Though some engage in ordinary criminal behavior as well, it is not their driving motivation, but a means to an

informal globalisation creates fertile ground for illegal transactions and undocumented labour. Illegal migration and labour create a threat to social stability in the Southeast Europe region and to international security.

Who are the actors and the victims in human smuggling and trafficking? What are the strategies and tactics of the human smuggling and trafficking networks? The paper looks at irregular migration to Turkey and through Turkey where Istanbul is a key zone. In more specific terms, it focuses on refugees, human smuggling and trafficking and illegal migration of labour. In doing so, the paper takes account of the global distribution of the demand for labour, and the impact of informal globalisation in shaping the undocumented and illegal labour market. It examines the processes and actors at work.

## **Conceptual Considerations**

A definition of human smuggling, including its social organisation, political and economic significance, is still very much a work in progress. People smuggling is procuring the illegal entry of a person into a state, of which the person is not a national or permanent resident, in order to obtain a financial or other material benefit.<sup>2</sup> It is important to differentiate human smuggling from human trafficking. Human smuggling is the recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving people for the purpose of exploitation; by using threatening force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power against them; or by giving or receiving a payment or a benefit to those who

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end. Brazilian terrorist Carlos Marighella, author of the *Minimanual of Urban Guerrilla Warfare*, encouraged bank robberies as a means to fund terrorist activity. Groups as diverse as the IRA in Northern Ireland, the Kurdish Workers' Party in the Middle East, and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of Sri Lanka, have raised money for terrorist ends with diverse criminal activities. At <http://www.jmu.edu/orgs/wrni/it3.html>. For the information on the PKK and human smuggling see Metin Dalman and İsmail Tabak, 1995. *Avrupa'da İnsan Ticareti ve PKK* [Human Smuggling in Europe and the PKK], İstanbul: DTPA Türk-Alman Basın Ajansı.

<sup>2</sup> Article 3 of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime).

control them.<sup>3</sup> Human trafficking is the cross-border sale of a person, against his or her will, for the purpose of sexual or other exploitation. It leaves the victims in a condition of slavery as they are forced into prostitution or other activities while being deprived of the freedom to change. The profile of the victims shows that they are disadvantaged and vulnerable in terms of age groups and socio-economic status. For example, the age group of illegal sex-workers ranges from 13 to the mid-40s.

Human smuggling, trafficking and illegal migrant work force are inter-related because smuggled and trafficked people work illegally in the destination and sometimes in the transit country, depending on how much time they spent in the transit country. A more specific analysis of irregular migration requires an extensive study on human smuggling and various movements of illegal human mobility in the region. Recognising this, the paper aims to present a mix of descriptive empirical evidence from the field work in Istanbul and a conceptual analysis providing a perspective of human smuggling to and via Turkey. It covers irregular migration to Turkey from the Balkans, the Caucasus, Russia, Ukraine and Central Asia, Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, Black Africa and South Asia. It first attempts to understand this phenomenon in the larger context of the processes of globalisation. The globalisation of economic activities and technological advances have increased the mobility of people in various forms ranging from the migration of documented labour to the illegal flow of labour including illegal migrant smuggling and expanded transitional crime.

The excessive supply of labour in the economically disadvantaged countries, where the size of the unemployed young population has expanded, is an important factor in the increased number of illegal migrant workers attempting to enter Western European countries and the USA. In the 1960s and 1970s the surplus labour supply in the Middle Eastern, Asian and Mediterranean countries was largely absorbed by Western Europe through documented migration of labour. Nevertheless,

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<sup>3</sup> Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

there was a sizeable proportion of illegal entry. Its volume expanded throughout the 1990s; and it has been decreasing in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Its geography has also changed as the result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the spread of the capitalist economic systems throughout the so-called Second and Third Worlds. The need for employment and economic discomfort appear to be the main reasons of illegal migration movement. Migrants, however, are often driven to professional smugglers by blocked social mobility, pre-existing corruption, uneven development (not necessarily poverty), persecution, racism and sexism. Studies show that many illegal migrants who choose a clandestine route to work abroad feel compelled to leave their home communities because of unemployment, the risk of hunger (cited by more than 50 per cent of the African migrants in Turkey<sup>4</sup>), economic crisis, political conflict, ethnic persecution, and the "fear of rape at home in the case of many ethnic minority women".<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, political, sociological, and psychological factors are likely to be as important as economic factors that affect the causes of illegal migration movements and human smuggling. The liberalisation of international markets and investment in developing countries has not decreased migration, as predicted by neo-classical theory.<sup>6</sup> Increased investment and increased trade in developing countries (e.g. the large-scale direct US investment in Mexico and China, see below) are associated with an expansion in the illegal migration of labour from these countries to the advanced countries in the form of human smuggling. Although increase in investment may increase the number of available jobs and decrease the wage differentials among the developed and the developing countries, surplus disposable income often becomes "migration capital" used to pay for international travel and to pay for

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<sup>4</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM). 1995. *Transit Migration in Turkey*. Study Completed in December 1995. Migration Information Programme. P. 17.

<sup>5</sup> See David Kyle and Rey Koslowski (eds). 2001. *Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspective*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, "Introduction", pp. 1-25. P. 9.

<sup>6</sup> For the discussion on foreign investment in developing countries and migration see, Richard Layard, Oliver Blanchard, Rudiger Dornbusch and Paul Krugman. 1992. *East-West Migration: The Alternative*. Cambridge: MIT Press, chap. 1.

smugglers.<sup>7</sup> A study on China<sup>8</sup> shows that a large proportion of the Chinese who are smuggled to the United States are from Fujian Province, a coastal province with one of China's fastest-growing regional economies. Smuggled Chinese are often from the middle class families that can afford cash down payments (approximately US \$1500 required by smugglers before embarkation).<sup>9</sup> The IOM's study<sup>10</sup> also reveals that Kurds from Northern Iraq paid smugglers a generous amount of money, US \$2000 to US \$8000, for passage to Italy by boat between July 1997 and January 1998.

In analysing the victim profile of the smuggled people and illegal workers, one of the sociological factors that needs to be taken into consideration is the observation that people from different layers of society move to different countries. Secondly, in the case of illegal employment, age, gender and socio-economic status affect the type of the employment and the sector.

## **The Field Work**

Field work was conducted by Professor Narli and a team of researchers during a period of 18 months. The first period consisted of six months in 1994, followed by 12 months during the years of 2002-2003. Field work data was collected from various districts of Istanbul (Tarlabasi, Koca Mustafa Pasa, Vefa, Suleymaniye, Zeytinburnu, Aksaray and

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<sup>7</sup> See David Kyle. 1996. "The Transnational Peasant: The Social Construction of Transnational Migration from the Ecuadorian Andes." Ph.D. diss., John Hopkins University; and David Spener. 2001. "Smuggling Migrants through South Texas: Challenges Posed by Operation Rio Grande " in *Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspective*, David Kyle and Rey Koslowski (eds). Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. pp. 129-165.

<sup>8</sup> Zai Liang and Wenzhen Ye. 2001. "From Fujian to New York: Understanding the New Chinese Immigration" in *Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspective*, David Kyle and Rey Koslowski (eds). Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press. pp. 187-215.

<sup>9</sup> For the amount of money given to smugglers see, Peter Hessler. 2002. "It's the Rich Chinese Who Flee to US", *Seattle Post Intelligence*, February 10, 2000.

<sup>10</sup> The IOM. 1998. *Trafficking in Migrants*, *Quarterly Bulletin*, no. 17 (January).

Laleli.) These districts are known to house smugglers who lodge illegal immigrants and where illegal foreign workers live.

Narli and her team visited the places mentioned above at different intervals. They observed and interviewed those who rent rooms to illegal migrant workers and smuggled migrants transiting Turkey, people running shops and laundries in the region, illegal foreign workers who were smuggled and those who entered with legal documents in 1994 and 2002-2003. Most importantly, Narli also interviewed a person who was involved in smuggling humans and a lawyer who defended human smugglers in a court of law.

Data on the women trafficking and migration of illegal sex workers was obtained from press reports, interviews with the Turkish male customers and from the observations done in various sections of Istanbul in the years of 2002 and 2004.

Additional research data was collected from various sources: security departments in Istanbul and Ankara; local and international daily and weekly publications and reports from major TV channels.

## **Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking**

People smuggling has become the preferred trade of a growing number of criminal networks world-wide. Trans-national human smuggling, hardly a global issue in the 1980s, is a continuously growing phenomenon and is now a multibillion-dollar trade world-wide. Hard facts about human smuggling and trafficking are difficult to obtain because of the illicit nature of the trade. The International Organisation of Migration makes some estimates. The number of people trafficked or smuggled across borders on an annual basis is four million people. The annual revenue generated by smuggling is US\$5-7 billion. The IOM estimated total global revenues in 1997 to be up to US \$ 7 billion.<sup>11</sup> It is

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<sup>11</sup> The IOM. 1997. "Trafficking in Migrants: IOM Policy and Activities" At [http://www.iom.ch/IOM/Trafficking/IOM\\_Policy.html](http://www.iom.ch/IOM/Trafficking/IOM_Policy.html). Also see BBC News. 2001. *The Road to Refuge*. "The Journey: A Smuggler's Story" in *BBC News*, 2001 at

a crime that is organised<sup>12</sup> and linked to other criminal activities.<sup>13</sup> It is an issue of global nature, not only as a "transnational crime,"<sup>14</sup> but also as an enormous violation of human rights,<sup>15</sup> and a contemporary form of slavery. After their arrival in the country of destination, the illegal status of the migrants puts them into the mercy of their smugglers, often forcing them for years to work in the illegal labour market to pay off the debts incurred as a result of their transportation.

This highly profitable trade poses a relatively low risk compared with trades in drugs or arms. Unlike drug trafficking, the principal investors do not have to accompany the commodity (the smuggled people) physically across the border. The low risk and high profit do not explain why the volume of human smuggling has increased since the early 1990s. The causes, social organisation, and proposed solutions are much

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[http://news.bbc.uk/1/hi/english/statistic/in-depth/world/2001/road\\_to\\_refuge/journey/default.stm](http://news.bbc.uk/1/hi/english/statistic/in-depth/world/2001/road_to_refuge/journey/default.stm).

<sup>12</sup> See James Finckenauer and Elin Waring. 1996. "Russian Émigré Crime in the United States: Organised Crime or Crime That is Organised?" *Transnational Organised Crime* 2 (2/3):139-55.

<sup>13</sup> The connection between human smuggling and other types of organised crime was mentioned in a draft statement issued by participants at an international conference on illegal immigration. It warned that people smuggling is increasingly linked to other criminal activities. "Many smuggling activities are being organized by criminal networks which are also involved in trafficking of narcotics, document fraud, money laundering, arms smuggling and other transnational crimes," a draft statement said. The statement was drawn up by Australia and Indonesia, who are co-hosting the conference being held in Bali, Indonesia. See "Ministers from Asian and Pacific Nations Confer on Ways to End People Smuggling" By Slobodan Lekic, *The Associated Press*, February 27, 2002.

<sup>14</sup> Transnational Organized Crime is crime committed by an organized criminal group, which is planned or committed in more than one state, or has substantial effects on more than one state, or is committed by a group which commits crimes in more than one state. An organized criminal group is a structured group existing for a period of time and acting in concert, with the aim of committing one or more crimes for financial or other material benefit. (UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, 2000).

<sup>15</sup> For the cases of human rights' violation of the illegal transit migrants and the smuggled migrants detained in Turkey, see Bülent Peker (ed). 2001. *Sığınma Hakkı ve Mülteciler: İltica ve Mültecilik Atelyesi. Ankara 24-26 March 2001*. Ankara: İnsan Hakları Derneği, Chapters 5, 6 and 8.

more historically and politically complex than they may at first seem. As human smuggling has a global nature, it requires us to consider the wider social and economic context, in which it is flourishing, rather than to simply demonise the smugglers and to ask the transit countries to tighten border control.

Economic development, rapidly advancing information, communication and transportation technologies raise the expectations of new middle classes whose members have recently gained social mobility. This is more likely to motivate people to look for higher living standards and "better future" for their children in the advanced countries. The smuggled people from Iraq detained in Turkey on August 9, 2002 said: "We left our country because we desire a bright future for our children and it is important to guarantee it." <sup>16</sup> Political instability and a constant worry about one's own and family's future also drive people to migrate through legal or clandestine routes to search for security.

### **Turkey as a Transit and Destination Country in Human Smuggling**

Turkey has become an international centre and a staging area for human smuggling because of its porous eastern borders and its geographical position on the edge of Western Europe. It has not only become a transit country, but also a destination country for a number of Iraqi, Iranian and Afghani migrants, who have entered with legal documents or have been smuggled. Secondly, Turkey is a destination country for the trafficking of women and children. For many illegal sex workers from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Turkey is the destination country. Some of them are brought by organised crime groups and forced to work in prostitution; but many of them had the knowledge of being illegal sex worker in Turkey.

A large number of illegal migrants have transited through Turkey. The IOM report issued in 1995 showed that 40 percent of the transient migrants interviewed entered Turkey without valid document such as

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<sup>16</sup> It was reported by *SKYTURK* TV on August 9, 2002.



passport or a refugee document<sup>17</sup>; and more than two-thirds of those, who entered Turkey without valid documents were, Iraqis.<sup>18</sup> Organized crime cells have smuggled a large number of Iraqis with ethnic identities, e.g., Kurd, Chaldean/Assyrian and Turkomans, Iranians, Afghanis, Pakistanis and Bengalis to Europe via Turkey. They are usually caught mid way before reaching the destination.

Turkey received a warning from the European Union leaders who placed illegal immigration on top of the agenda for the EU Council summit in Seville, Spain on June 24, 2002. One of the reasons for this is the recent upsurge in right-wing electoral support across Europe. The inability of the EU leaders to manage the complex mix of migrants and asylum seekers converging on their borders is causing them major political headaches and making daily headlines across Europe. Voters are expressing the people's frustration over what they perceive to be weak and ineffective government policies. They want action and governments appear to be listening. The public anger is complicated by the anxiety that the population increase in the EU countries is mainly generated by two non-European population sources: the higher rate of birth among the Middle Eastern and Asian migrants who have either become citizens of the EU countries or who are staying in the country with a residence and work permit, and, secondly, the ever increasing number of illegal migrant workers.<sup>19</sup>

Before the Seville Summit, Turkey, a South East European country connecting Europe to Asia, received warnings from the EU countries to tighten its border control and to prevent human trafficking and the flow of illegal migrant workers via Turkey to Europe. For example, in early 2002 Italian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Silvio Berlusconi

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<sup>17</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM). 1995. *Transit Migration in Turkey*. Study Completed in December 1995. Migration Information Programme. p.20.

<sup>18</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM). 1995. p.20.

<sup>19</sup> According to EUROSTATD data, the EU population is 379,4 million. In 2000, the number of people increased had been 1,070,000 and, in 2001, the same figure was 1.050,00. In 2002, it was 1,460,000, which meant 3.9 percent increase. According to the same source, 70 percent of the population increase was generated by the migration, both legal and illegal and the relatively higher birth rate of the "foreigners" residing in the EU countries.

called upon Turkey to intensify its measures to prevent illegal human smuggling. Meeting with the Turkish Ambassador to Italy, Necati Utkan (on February 1, 2002), Berlusconi conveyed Italy's "serious uneasiness" over the Turkish ship *Engin* that came to Italy's Gallipoli port three days earlier carrying illegal immigrants.<sup>20</sup> This was not the first time that Ankara received a warning from Italy. In the year 2000, the Italian authorities accused Turkey of doing too little to prevent illegal migrants reaching Europe.<sup>21</sup>

What are the routes and networks of human smuggling? What are the causes of human smuggling? Is there anti human smuggling legislation? How is the situation and daily life of smuggled migrants in Turkey? How do Turkish people react to a "shadow" society of smuggled migrants? Does ethnicity and religion make a difference in responding to them? This papers will answer these question below and identify the types of human smuggling ranging from profit-oriented operations to politically-humanistic ally motivated smuggling.

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<sup>20</sup> "Italian Premier Tells Turkish Envoy of Concern Over Immigrant Ship", *BBC Monitoring International Reports*, February 2, 2002, from text of report in English by Turkish news agency Anatolia.

<sup>21</sup> See Christ Morris. 2000. "Turkey Detains illegal Migrants", *BBC News*, August 6, 2000; at <http://news.bbc.uk/1/hi/world/from/europe/868687.stm>. Morris also reporting of the police operations to detain smugglers following the week that the Italian authorities accused Turkey of failing to take measures to prevent illegal migration via Turkey to Europe. Morris wrote: "A ship carrying more than 4000 Kurds arrived in southern Italy just over a week ago (July 30, 2000), prompting the Italian Government protest to Ankara." (parenthesis is added). As a response, the police tightened the border control. In early August, the Turkish police in the city of Erzurum detained 109 Afghans and Iraqis who were hoping to be smuggled into Europe. They were discovered on August 5 in the back of a lorry, and the driver was also taken into custody. The-would-be migrants had paid him US\$ 2,000 each to deliver them to Istanbul. For the information on the migrant detained on July 30, 2000 in Italy, also see the BBC story: "Italians Halt Migrant Boat" in *BBC News*, July 31, 2000; at <http://news.bbc.uk/1/hi/world/europe/858946.stm>. This story reports: Italian coastguards detained 418 people on July 30 for illegally entering the country on a ship. The ship, named Kalsit, carrying mostly men from Northern Iraq, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, "was believed to have begun its journey at a Turkish port four days ago, stopping at a Greek port to pick up food, officials said".

## Routes, Destination, Networks and Methods of Human Smuggling

A large number of migrants reach Western Europe first through Turkey and the Balkans. Human smuggling and trafficking are executed via a number of land, water and air routes described below. Destination countries of the human smugglers who transit through Turkey are Germany, England and other European Union countries. The following origin countries supply the human stock for the smugglers: Middle East Countries including Iraq, and Iran (and many Palestinians from Palestine); Black African countries including Ethiopia, Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria and Senegal; and Asian countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They first transit Turkey from where they move to transit Southeast European and Eastern European countries to reach the final destination in Western Europe.

*The major land routes of human smuggling via Turkey are as follows:*

1. Iran, Iraq or Syria-Turkey-Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria-Czech Republic or Slovakia-Germany;
2. Iran, Iraq or Syria-Turkey-Bulgaria or Greece-Macedonia-Albania-Italy-Western European countries; and
3. Iran, Iraq or Syria-Turkey-South East European countries-Western European countries.<sup>22</sup>

According to the report (titled "Human Smuggling") released by the Security Department Directorate's Smuggling and Organised Crime Unit in 2000, there are 13 points of entry or official and illegal crossings along the country's border with Iran, Iraq, Syria, Georgia and Armenia. And there are 10 points of exit on the Aegean and Mediterranean Sea coasts.

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<sup>22</sup> See Tolga Şardan, "Satılık Hayat Var" ("Life for Sale"), *Milliyet*, July 17, 2000.

## **Points of unauthorised entry to Turkey:**

### *Armenian-Georgian Border*

Iğdır/Diluca, Kars/Digor-Tuzluca, Ardahan/Posof, Artvin/Sarp

### *Iranian Border*

Küçük Ağır Dağı/Doğubeyazıt, Van<sup>23</sup>/Özalp-Başkale<sup>24</sup>,  
Hakkari/Yüksekova

### *Iraqi Border*

Hakkari/Şemdilli-Cukurca, Şırnak/Uludere

### *Syrian Border*

Şanlıurfa/Suruç-Mert Village-Akçakale Village Hatay/Yayladağı-Güveççi Köyü, Altunözü-Turfanda-Avuttepe villages, Hatay/Karbeyaz Village, Hatay/Reyhanlı, Hatay/Samandağı, Hatay/İskenderun-Arsuz section, Adana/Karataş section-the zone where Seyhan and Ceyhan rivers merge with the Mediterranean Sea, Gaziantep/İslahiye-Karababa area.

## **Zones from which to exit Turkey, located in the Aegean and Mediterranean Sea regions:**

Antalya/Kaş-Meis Island; Muğla/Datça-Simi Island; Bodrum-Kos Island; Aydın/Didim-Kuşadası coast, Sisam Island; Edirne/Pazarkule-

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<sup>23</sup> In Van, there were around 40,000 transit migrants, 16,000 were identified asylum seekers and the rest were not considered in this category. This was observed by Umit Bayazoglu in 2000. Asylum seekers had to line up everyday and sign in the police station. Sometimes they have to arrive at six AM in the morning and wait to sign until 12 PM.

<sup>24</sup> Baskale is district on the Iran-Turkey border. Many refugees from Iran, Iraq and Pakistan arrive in Baskale. They are transferred to Van by cars and horses alternatively in through a circuitous route to avoid the check points. From Baskale to Van each person pays 500 \$US.

Karaağaç; Trakya/Meriç-Sufli; Trakya/Kumdere-Paşaköy-Karpuzlu-İpsala Enez sector; Istanbul Airport.<sup>25</sup>

The Balkan routes, which are connected to Turkey, are well utilized in reaching Western Europe. Along with the land routes, air routes are also utilized in the Balkans. The most commonly used air route from Black Africa and North Africa to Southeast Europe via Turkey is: Dakar - Tunis-Istanbul- Sarajevo. An interview with an African informant living in Istanbul revealed that young men from Ghana, Gambia, Senegal and Nigeria travel to Dakar from where they reach Tunis and then Istanbul. They stay in Istanbul a few days and proceed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sarajevo airport is a key point in transiting to Western Europe, as Amra Kebo reports: "Minutes after a flight from Tehran or Istanbul touches down, an exotic mix of Turkish, Arabic and Farsi reverberates around Sarajevo airport's arrival terminal. Once some of these arrivals pass customs control, they will simply disappear, hooking up with criminals who will attempt to smuggle them into Western Europe."<sup>26</sup> The force is pitifully inadequate given that there are 426 different official and illegal crossings along the country's 1616 km border.

There are four basic Balkan routes according to the UN and the IOM. Three involve smuggling the immigrants across the Croatian border - at Bihac, Srebrenik and Brcko. The fourth ferries them from the Adriatic coast to Italy. The head of the UN mission in Bosnia, Jacques Klein said that immigrants paid smugglers between 2,000 and 10,000 German marks in 200-2001, depending on their country of origin.<sup>27</sup> In Klein's opinion, as a part of the deal, there is an unwritten rule that, if captured, the traffickers will help immigrants twice more. Those who fail on the third attempt are left to try and make it across the frontier by themselves. The smuggling operation is fraught with danger. The immigrants are

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<sup>25</sup> For the data on unauthorized entry to Turkey, See Tolga Şardan, "Satılık Hayat Var" (Life for Sale), *Milliyet*, July 17, 2000. Some illegal migrants depart Turkey from Istanbul airport by fraud documents.

<sup>26</sup> See article "Illegal immigrants flock to Bosnia in the hope of being smuggled into Western Europe". By Amra Kebo in Sarajevo (BCR No. 213, 29-Jan-2001).

<sup>27</sup> See article "Illegal immigrants flock to Bosnia in the hope of being smuggled into Western Europe". By Amra Kebo in Sarajevo (BCR No. 213, 29-Jan-2001).

often dropped by the smugglers and many are supposed to drown while they are trying to cross the Sava River into Croatia. The UN figures show that over the last year (2000-2001), 35,793 Iranians, Tunisians, Iraqis, Turks and Chinese entered Bosnia through Sarajevo airport alone - well over half of that are thought to have subsequently tried to sneak across the Croatian border. The lack of visa requirements means that most immigrants in possession of a valid passport can enter the country without having any problem. In an attempt to address the migrant problem, the authorities introduced visa restrictions for Iranians, the largest number of immigrants entering the country. As a result, their number dropped dramatically. But just as this hole was plugged, another has opened up. The UN says there has been a growth of migrants from China and Tunisia.<sup>28</sup>

The increased security measures, taken by the police and gendarmerie in Turkey in the years of 2000-2002, have affected the smugglers' choice of routes. According to Ankara Security Chief Feyzullah Arslan (speaking in June 2002), there has been decrease in the usage of Turkish routes in the four regions identified above. Now the most frequently used routes by the human smugglers are the South Route: Iraq-Syria-Lebanon, and the North Route: Iran-Caucasus-Ukraine.<sup>29</sup>

In response to legislative and law enforcement activities, the survival of smuggling networks greatly depends on the constant change of routes and methods. Flexibility is one of main characteristics of transportation and choice of routes. While, the routes used by people may sometimes be simple and direct, at other times they may be circuitous. The times between departure and arrival may vary from a few days to several months or even years. For example, the smuggled Iraqis were observed (by the persons interviewed in Istanbul) spending several weeks in the Vefa (Istanbul) area where they stayed in "rooms rent to singles" (*bekar odası*) before they left for Greece by ship. These rooms are utilized as transitional shelters for the smuggled people and the smugglers wait to form a complete crossing group. One of the informants told us (in July

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<sup>28</sup> See article "Illegal immigrants flock to Bosnia in the hope of being smuggled into Western Europe". By Amra Kebo in Sarajevo (BCR No. 213, 29-Jan-2001).

<sup>29</sup> *Hurriyet* 28 June, 2002

2002): "several groups of Iraqis used to arrive at different time intervals and to stay in the rooms for a short period of time. Then, they disappeared overnight. I observed many of them being loaded into minibuses before they disappeared. Since the last six months, I have not been seeing illegal Iraqis and Iranians. As far as I have heard, the Police collected and expelled them."

How do they arrive in Turkey and depart from the country? Various methods are utilized by the smuggling networks. The Turkish authorities identified five methods:<sup>30</sup>

- Land-to harbor crossing: Illegal migrants are first loaded into buses or minibuses and driven to cities or districts with harbors where they are put on small boats carrying them to ships bound for Greece or Italy. The next stage is their transfer to small boats again and their transportation to the coast in the destination country.
- River crossing: Crossing Meriç by small boats<sup>31</sup>;
- Crossing the borders in hiding in lorries and trucks as well as in cars<sup>32</sup>;

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<sup>30</sup> For the information on the methods, see *Cumhuriyet*, July 1, 2002 article titled "Goc, Umut Yolu" ("Immigration, Way of Hope").

<sup>31</sup> Smuggled people often cross Meric with the assistance of the villagers in Western Thrace. Then they are transferred to a spot where they meet someone who takes them to Athens in car or in minibus. This information was obtained from an interview with Nihat, who was engaged in human smuggling and imprisoned in Greece in 2002. He was interviewed in September 2003 to collect information on networks, actors and routes of human smuggling.

<sup>32</sup> The information on smuggling people in private car was provided by Nihat. The interviewed data shows that crossing borders in private cars is well utilised by Turkish people who live in Germany, France and Belgium. It is well-known fact that a Turkish worker smuggle one of his relatives from Turkey to Europe in his car when he returns from Turkey to their home country in Europe. Nihat told the stories the Turkish prisoners in Greece who were charged smuggling people. Nihat was interviewed in September 2003 three times.

- Crossing the borders with forged documents<sup>33</sup>;
- Crossing the borders on foot or riding donkeys and horses.

Human smuggling in the region is executed by the organized crime networks operating in Turkey and in the Balkan countries, and secondly by the terrorist groups who need money to finance their activities.

The human smuggling networks are not hierarchically organised and centralized. They are loose and flexible networks in the form of spider-web. They can accommodate individuals and groups who would get involved in human smuggling only once in their life time or those who are planning to stay in the "business" for a long period of time. They can recruit individuals without any criminal record as well as those linked to terrorist organizations

Organized crime and drug trafficking co-exist and exert a crime multiplier for militias, guerrillas and terrorists. There is a relationship between the organized crime and the illegal migration of labor since the organized crime organizes human trafficking and illegal employment in Turkey and the Balkans.

### **Human Smuggling Statistics in Turkish Sources**

Who are the smuggled people and smugglers? What is the number of the smuggled people and smugglers?

The Ankara Chief of Security provides hard data on human smuggling at press conferences on regular intervals. The Human Rights Association and Foundation, which obtains information from the police and gendarmerie, also publishes reports offering hard data on the number of

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<sup>33</sup> Fraudulent documents are obtained from various sources. One of them is from Turkish people living abroad who might sell to human smugglers their passports containing a residence permit in a European Union country. They change the photos in the passports and give them to Iraqis, Iranians and Turkish people who plan to enter the European Union countries. Preparation of such documents at central bus stations in Turkey has also been observed.



illegal migrants and those charged with human smuggling and their nationalities.

According to the Ankara Security Chief Feyzullah Arslan, in the years of 1995-2002, 346,940 illegal migrants were detained. The figure reached 418, 977 in May 2003.<sup>34</sup> In addition to this, in May 2003, 2,663 people who were suspected of entering Turkey with false documents were identified and expelled.

The same figure was 11,044 in 2002; 15,208 in 2001; 24,504 in 2000; 6,069 in 1999.<sup>35</sup> In the years of 1999 and 2002, 45,779 illegal migrants' transits were precluded and 2,520 smugglers were arrested.<sup>36</sup>

Table 1 (below) shows the figures on the number of illegal migrants captured each year. The origin countries are Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Bangladesh.

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<sup>34</sup> *Milli Gazete*, June 14, 2003). "İnsan Kaçakçılığına Geçit Yok).

<sup>35</sup> *Milli Gazete*, June 14, 2003 "İnsan Kaçakçılığına Geçit Yok.

<sup>36</sup> *Hurriyet* 28 June, 2002.

1995	11,362,
1996	18,804,
1997	28,439,
1998	29,426,
1999	47,529
2000	94,514.
2001	92,362
2002	82, 825 <sup>37</sup>
2003	56,219 <sup>38</sup>
2004	61,228 <sup>39</sup>

Source:  
Report 2002 by the  
General Directorate on  
Security, Unit of  
Foreigners, Refugees  
Department (Emniyet  
Genel Müdürlüğü,  
Yabancılar Şubesi İltica  
Dairesi Başkanlığı).

Total:                    522, 708

Table 1: Number of illegal migrants captured by years

The irregular migrants detained came from the following countries: in 2000, out of a total number of 94,514 "illegal migrants" who entered Turkey without valid documents through "illegal means and ways", 17,280 were from Iraq; 8,746 from Afghanistan; 8,290 from Moldavia; 6,825 from Iran; 5,027 from Pakistan; 4,554 Russia; 4,527 from Ukraine; 4,500 from Romania; and 3,300 from Georgia. There was not any information on the number of those who were permitted to make

<sup>37</sup> For example, security forces in south-western Turkey detained about 400 would-be illegal immigrants based on a word to the paramilitary police in the province of Mugla. Asian and African illegal migrants hoping to reach Europe are apprehended daily in Turkey. "Turkey Stops Some 400 Would-Be Immigrants", *Agence France Presse*, quoting the *Anatolia News Agency*, February 3, 2002. In August (2002) the Coast Guards in the province of Izmir's Cesme district detained 1300 would-be illegal immigrants and nine human smugglers (two of whom are Turkish citizens) in the ship carrying Moroccan flag. The captain was Ukrainian, who indicated taking the illegal immigrants to Italy. See "1300 Kişiyi Kacıracaktardı" (They were near to Smuggle 1,300 persons"), in *Milliyet*, August 15, 2002, p.13.

<sup>38</sup> The figure for 2003 was obtained from Emniyet Genel Mudurlugu Report 2005. *The Ministry of Interior Report (2005)*, See *Grafik 1: 1995-2003 Number of illegal migrants captured by years* at [www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm](http://www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm) - 13k.

<sup>39</sup> This figure was obtained from a representative of Emniyet Genel Mudurlugu in 2005 in Istanbul.

legitimate claims to apply for political asylum, but it was certain that all of them were expelled.<sup>40</sup>

The number of human smugglers arrested through the operations of the police and the gendarmerie has systematically increased since 1998 as a result of measures taken by the Ministry of Interior in response to the warnings received from the EU countries to prevent illegal migration to Europe via Turkey. In 1998, only 98 organizers of trafficking in migrants were detained; in 2000 the number of detained human smugglers was 850; and in 2001, it was 1,115.<sup>41</sup> In 2002, 1,157 and in the year of 2003, 937 human smugglers were detained.<sup>42</sup> Similarly, the number of the ship passages, allegedly by the European Union countries, carrying smuggled migrants has decreased. Accordingly, in 2000 a total number of 19 ships were reported to be going to Italy and Greece by passing Turkish water territories; the same figure was nine in 2001, and it was only two in 2002.<sup>43</sup> Moreover, the number of ships carrying smuggled migrants stopped by the Turkish authorities since 2000 has increased: while 17 ships were halted in 2000, in 2001 that number was 19; in the year 2002 by April merely nine ships were prevented to transit Turkish waters.<sup>44</sup>

The field work data also showed that the number of smuggled migrants has decreased and dropped dramatically since the beginning of 2002. All the interviewed people renting rooms to the smuggled Iraqis and Iranians

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<sup>40</sup> TÜRKİYE İNSAN HAKLARI VAKFI. Report Published in 2001.

<sup>41</sup> The Ministry of Interior Report (2002) shows that Turkey is a transit and destination country, and an origin country supplying migrants. It provides information on both the number of illegal migrants and smugglers detained. See Adnan Gerger NTV/Ankara. At <http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/news/161081.asp#BODY>. Also see Emniyet Genel Müdürlüğü, Yabancılar Şubesi İltica Dairesi Başkanlığı Report 2002, p.6.

<sup>42</sup> The figures for 2002 and 2003 were obtained from Emniyet Genel Mudurlugu Report 2005. The Ministry of Interior Report (2005) See *Grafik 5: 1998-2003 Number of the Human Trafficking organizers captured by years* at [www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm](http://www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm) - 13k.

<sup>43</sup> Emniyet Genel Müdürlüğü, Yabancılar Şubesi İltica Dairesi Başkanlığı Report 2002. P.6

<sup>44</sup> Emniyet Genel Müdürlüğü, Yabancılar Şubesi İltica Dairesi Başkanlığı Report 2002. P.6.

in 2002 and those running laundry shops in the Vefa area mentioned a decrease in the number of smuggled Iranians and Iraqis residing in the area during different time arrival intervals. They underlined the increased police control and operations in the area. They observed the police collecting the illegal Iranian and Iraqi migrants, and believed that these illegal migrants were deported. One of the room-renters (interviewed in July, 2002) said: "the illegal migrants who were smuggled and loaded in the area diminished six months ago" (referring to January 2002).

The nationalities of the smuggled people are diverse. According to the information of the police, out of the total number of 850 smugglers arrested in 2000, the nationalities were as follows: 701 Turks, 48 Iraqis, 19 Iranians, 14 Afghans, 11 Bengalis, 10 Greeks, 9 Moroccans, and 8 Pakistanis; and 30 of them were classified as from "other nationalities".<sup>45</sup>

According to the Ministry of Interior, irregular migrants create huge burden on the state. In the years of 1999-2002, the total cost for their lodging and deportation was 1,014 Trillion TL. A significant proportion of this money, 600 billion TL was spent for deporting the illegal sex workers.<sup>46</sup>

## **Trafficking of Women**

Migration linked to trafficking of women and prostitution is one of the darkest features of the lack of equality between women and men. This form of migration has developed into a gigantic, highly organized criminal trade linked to the exploitation of women. The main reasons for female emigration are poverty, discrimination against women, unemployment, under-education, lack of resources, and political and economic instability. Some women left their country in hope of better work and a better life abroad.. Another reason is that the situation of

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<sup>45</sup> TÜRKİYE İNSAN HAKLARI VAKFI. Report Published in 2001.

<sup>46</sup> See Adnan Gerger NTV/Ankara at <http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/news/161081.asp#BODY>.

prostitutes in other countries is sometimes even worse in the countries of origin than in the destination countries due to their illegal status.<sup>47</sup>

In numerous OSCE States, prices paid for women in this state of bondage range from hundreds to thousands of dollars. In many cases, legal systems and local authorities offer no protection or redress to these victims. Although no statistics are available, research by the IHF shows that many thousands of women live under such circumstances.  
48

"Trafficking in women is a new terminology for an old practice that most often represents a form of slavery," said Renate Weber, head of the IHF women's rights project. "Intergovernmental institutions, and most of their member states, are embarrassed and concerned that it is one of the world's most profitable businesses decades after respect for human dignity was declared one of the main objectives of the United Nations."<sup>49</sup>

The principal recruiting methods include promises of marriage, well-paid jobs and better living conditions. However, many women become victims through physical and psychological violence or pressure by criminal groups that keep the victims in bondage abroad, removing their passports and other documents. In some cases, corrupt policemen and other authorities facilitate this process.

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<sup>47</sup> D.M. Hughes, *The "Natasha" Trade: Transnational Sex Trafficking*, 246 National Institute of Justice Journal 9-15, (January 2001), at [http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha\\_nij.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/natasha_nij.pdf).

<sup>48</sup> See The IHF Report of 2000, titled "A Form of Slavery: Trafficking in Women in OSCE Member States," prepared for the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings. On 19 June 2000, the IHF published this 84-page report that deals, among other things, with national legislation and government policies – or, as is often the case, the lack of them – against trafficking in women; factors that contribute to and determine the reality of trafficking; and available support services. It covers 29 post-communist countries and is based on a survey carried out within the framework of the IHF "Project to Investigate the Status of Women's Human Rights" carried out in cooperation with Helsinki Committees and other local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

<sup>49</sup> The IHF Report of 2000, titled "A Form of Slavery: Trafficking in Women in OSCE Member States," prepared for the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings

In Turkey there are numerous women from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania and Central Asian republics<sup>50</sup> who are the illegal sex workers. Frequently, they come and work here out of their own choice. However, many of these women have been trafficked into Turkey.

Turkey is a destination country for many women trafficking groups. According to the UN reports, 47 percent of the trafficked women work in Istanbul, 16 are in Antalya and Ankara.<sup>51</sup> As mentioned above many of the trafficked women work from Russia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Romania, Belarus, and Ukraine and Georgia work in prostitution out of their will to earn money. The Ministry of Interior Report on human trafficking shows that out of a total number of 4,495 deported persons from Russia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Romania and Ukraine and Georgia 1,066 were in prostitution in the years of 2001-2003.<sup>52</sup> None of them was forced to do this. In the year of 2002, 22 cases of women trafficking from the countries referred to above were reported through the IOM. The investigation by the Ministry showed that only seven of them were trafficked and forced to work in prostitution.<sup>53</sup>

In order to prevent women trafficking, Turkey has taken strong measures and provides direct assistance, including establishing SOS telephone line (ALO 157) and shelters to help the trafficked women. ALO 157 has started in May 2005 and it has saved more than hundred women from Russia, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan by July 2005. (See below Tables, 3a-3c).

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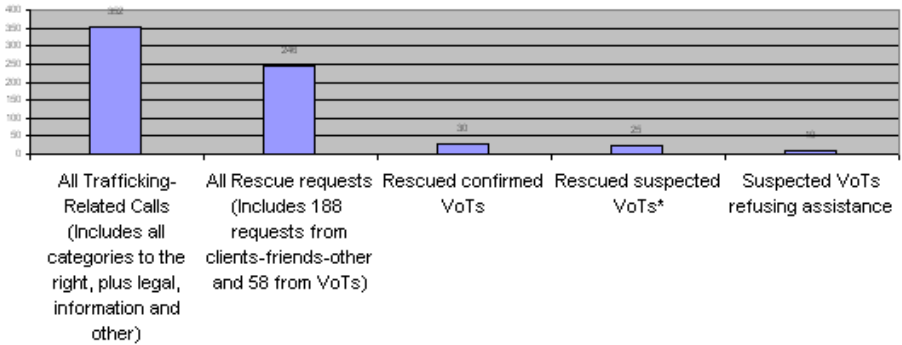
<sup>50</sup> There are victims from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Central Asian countries. In 2005, the Turkish police arrested women traffickers in Faith of Istanbul, who were accused of forcing four Kyrgyz women to work in prostitution. See *Sabah* daily, March 16, 2005, at [www.sabah.com.tr/2005/03/16/gnd116.html](http://www.sabah.com.tr/2005/03/16/gnd116.html).

<sup>51</sup> See *Milliyet*, July 29, 2005, article titled 'Kadin Ticaretinde Ibre Turkiye;ye Dondu'.

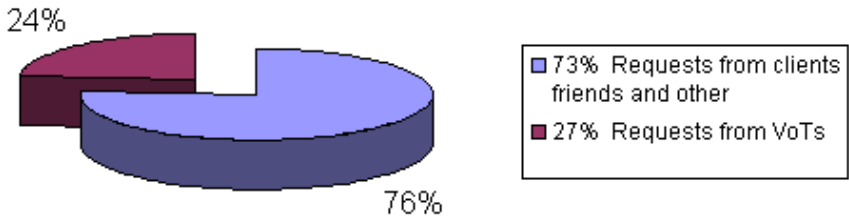
<sup>52</sup> For this figure see, *Emniyet Genel Mudurlugu Report 2005. The Ministry of Interior Report (2005)*, Table 3: Kaynak Ülkelerle ilgili Durum ('The data on the origin countries') at [www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm](http://www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm) - 13k.

<sup>53</sup> See *Emniyet Genel Mudurlugu Report 2005. The Ministry of Interior Report (2005)* at [www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm](http://www.icisleri.gov.tr/strateji/arastirma/gocmen.htm) - 13k.

**HELP LINE CALLS**  
**Since: 23 May, 2005**  
**Updated: 31 August, 2005**

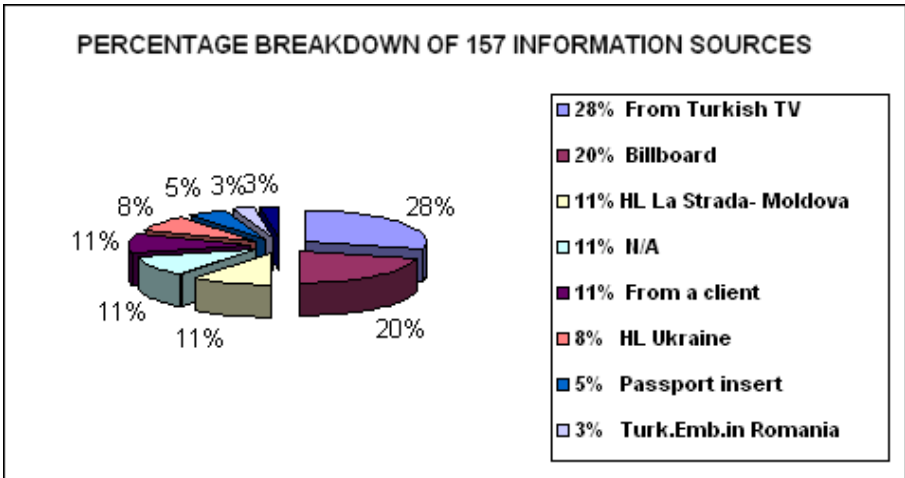
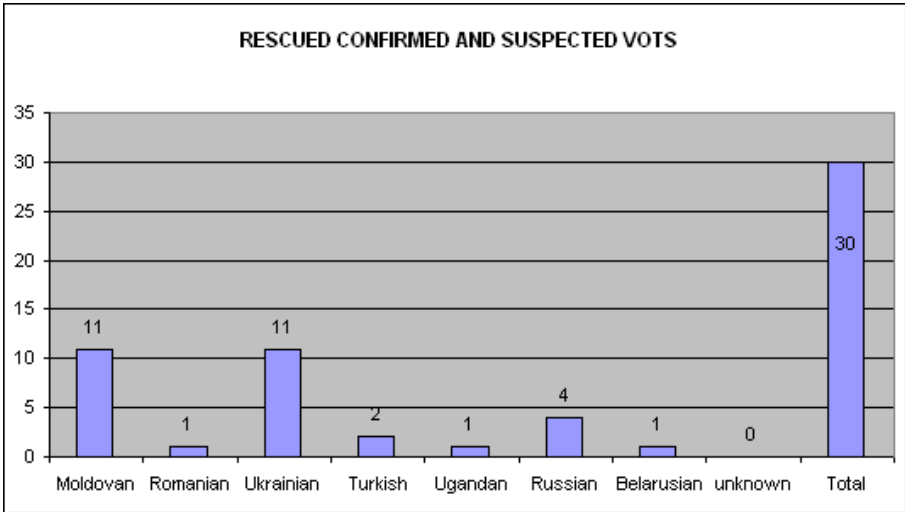


**ALL RESCUE REQUESTS**



Tables 3a-3c: 157 Helpline Statistics<sup>54</sup>

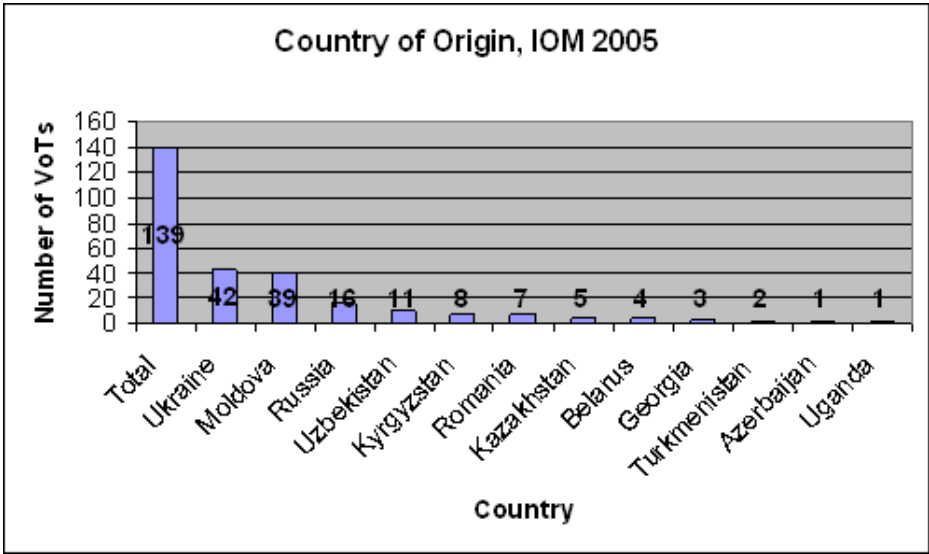
<sup>54</sup> These tables are available at <http://www.countertrafficking.org>.



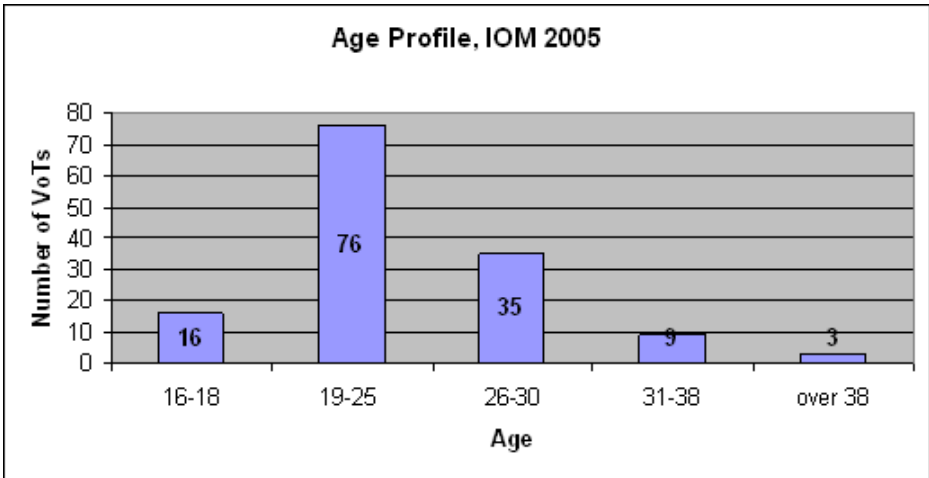
Tables 4a-4d: Victims of trafficking identified and assisted as of September 2005.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>55</sup> These tables are available at <http://www.countertrafficking.org>.



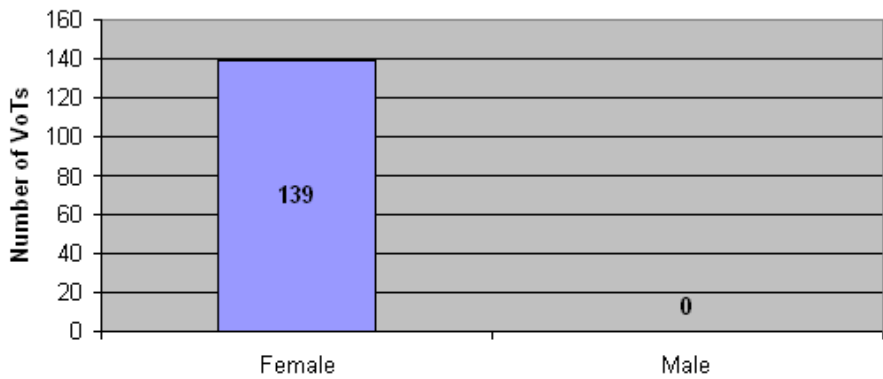


Breakdown of VoTs' Countries of Origin that IOM assisted by 31 August 2005.

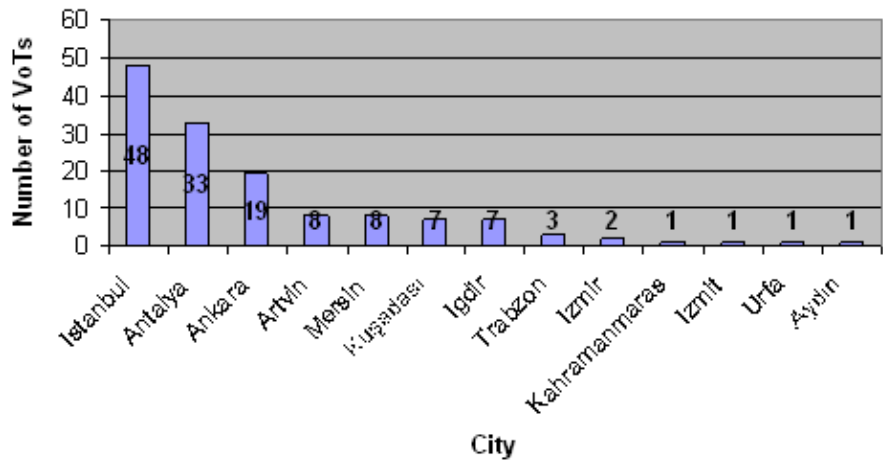


The age profile of 139 cases that IOM assisted in 2005.

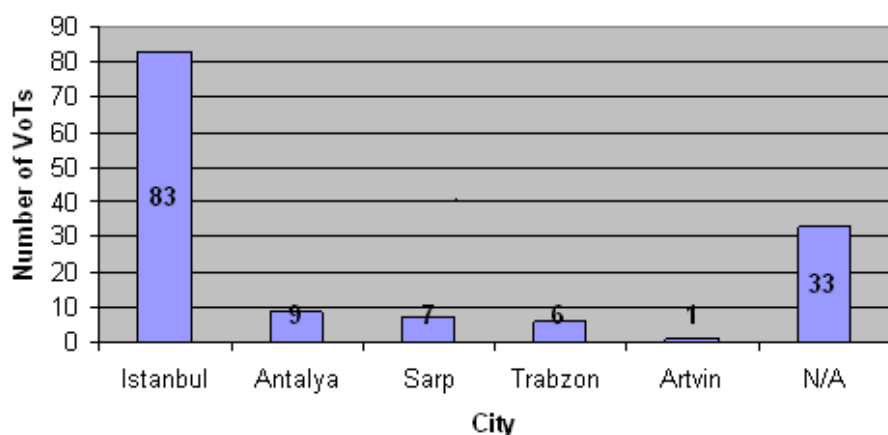
Gender Profile, IOM 2005



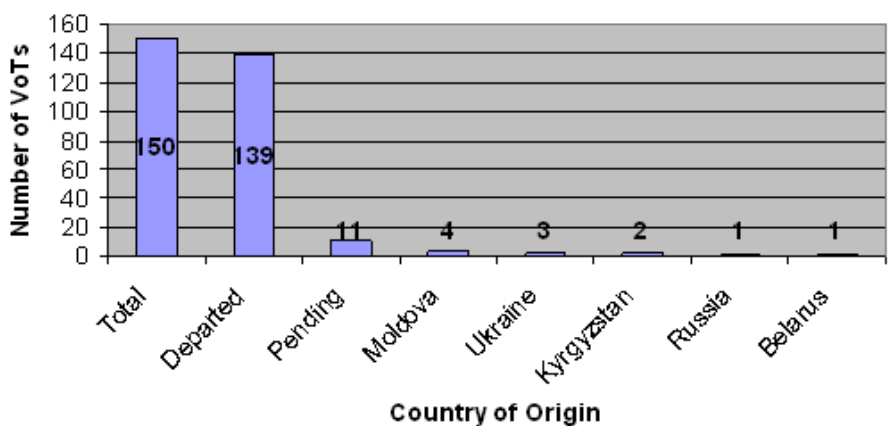
Cities that VoTs are Identified, IOM 2005



### VoTs' Port of Entry, IOM 2005



### Cases Pending as of 31 August 2005



## **Victim Profile**<sup>56</sup>

A total of 108 victims have been accommodated at the Human Resource Development Foundation run shelter in İstanbul in 10 months (2005). Their profile is as follows:

38% from Ukraine; 29% from Moldova; and 9 % from Russia and the remaining is from other countries in the region.

The age distribution of the victims:

- 55% btw the ages 18-24
- 27% btw the ages 25-29
- 14% above 29 and
- 4% below 18

## **Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation**

Human trafficking is addressed as a component of organized crime activities. Little attention is given to the victims exposed (if they are foreigners) to expedite deportation procedures, and there is no specific legal provision or measure addressing their human rights. There were no specific pieces of legislation concerning human trafficking and there was no definition of trafficking in human beings in the Penal Code or any other legal acts until 2002. In 2002, the Turkish Parliament passed a new law outlawing organ and people smuggling when the Parliament adopted a major reform package to harmonize Turkish laws with those of the EU. The new law passed on August 3, 2002 does not depart fundamentally from this approach, although it does reflect an increased awareness of the human trafficking phenomenon, particularly that of women trafficking. The new laws and changes in legislation are summarised below.

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<sup>56</sup> The source of the information is Human Resource Development Foundation that has a program to protect and rehabilitate trafficked victims in İstanbul.

- UN Convention on transnational organized crime and its two Protocols regulating migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Palermo Documents) signed in 2000 and ratified in TGNA (Turkish Parliament) in 2003.
- New Turkish Penal Code adopted in 2005, which sentences human trafficking 8 to 12 years.
- Readmission agreements with the EU and other source and destination countries including Syria, Romania, Kyrgyzstan and Greece.
- Citizenship Act in 2003 to avoid false marriages amended.
- Law on Work permits of the Aliens in 2003 in order to avoid illegal employment and regulation of the labour market with work permits adopted.
- Turkish Penal Code and human trafficking is defined as a crime in 2002 amended which brought the punishment of imprisonment to the perpetrators 5 to 10 years.