

2014 SUMMIT



TOGETHER LET'S STOP TRAFFICK



The anti-HT initiative led by the IPTI (International Police Training Institute), supported by the FBI NAA (National Academy Associates) and hosted by American Military University.



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PRESENTATION TRANSCRIPT

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11/1714

Thank you Mr. Chen. It's nice of you to think I am nice.

Thank you.

And delighted to be here; first time. I drove from Virginia. It took me only an hour and fifteen minutes. A pleasant ride and I want to start by congratulating those who thought about the most important human rights issue of our time, combating human trafficking. Human exploitation. And I also would like to congratulate the Blue Campaign. I am very familiar with the campaign and I have been working with them for quite some time now. I want to shift the focus from the U.S. to abroad and I want to take one of these airliners that were mentioned earlier, I fly United, yes, but I also fly almost every airliner because I travel almost every week I am somewhere. And for now I'm going to fly with you to a region in crisis, the Middle East. I am going to focus on the Arab world, you can tell from my accent I'm an Arab. I'm an Egyptian. But few days ago I was in Iran. Not do nuclear negotiations, I'm not that high of a level yet, but I was there to advise and help the Iranian government to revise and amend their 2004 law that recognizes prostitution, forced marriage, removal of human organs, and slavery as the only for forms of human trafficking. So, the idea was to expand the concept. So, I want to spend the time that I have here, maybe 20 minutes or so because I know that we're running late, to talk about the concept as it applies in countries of the Middle East. Countries in crisis. Countries in transition. Failing democracy, back to dictatorship. And I'll define United States human rights policy. I'm not sure where do we stand in issues of human rights in countries of the Middle East, but I think I know something about the United States stand in the issue of human trafficking. If you take a look at the tip report this last year, none of the countries of the Middle East appear in tier one. That tells you something about the status of human trafficking in this part of the world and then if you take a look at tier three, these are bad countries, at least from the U.S. perspective, you're going to find that we have at least eight Middle Eastern countries mentioned in tier three. Algeria;

Iran, for sure; Kuwait; Libya; Mauritania; Syria, absolutely; Saudi Arabia, I don't know why [laughter]; and Yemen. So, if you're thinking about flying somewhere, perhaps you avoid all these countries at least for now, at least until they move from tier three, maybe to tier two watch list. But, they don't feel that bad because Russia itself is on tier three in the U.S. report.

And I do want to go back to 2000; this is when we had something called human trafficking. In 2000, the international community came together and decided that we have a problem. Something has to be done about it so we had the Palermo Protocol, almost 165 countries now are parties to the Palermo Protocol. December 17, no, 15, I'll be in Istanbul talking to Yemenis parliamentarians in Yemen because Yemen, up until now, did not ratify the Palermo Protocol. We did here in the U.S. What's happened in 2000 is that we've shifted. The international community shifted the focus from prostitution to other forms of human trafficking and I understand your focus on sexual exploitation, which is absolutely right, but what the Palermo Protocol did, it shifted the focus from only sexual exploitation to many forms of human trafficking. I'm going to cover those, in the time I have, in countries of the Middle East. I'll start with several questions that I get all the time.

Every time I travel I get the first question: how about recruiting young Americans and young Europeans to go to Syria and Iraq and fight on the name of Islamic jihad? Would you consider that a form of human trafficking? I get the question all the time. How about using children as shields in political conflicts in country like Bahrain where you have a conflict between Shia and Sunni, and a country like Egypt when the Muslim Brotherhood will deny the right to rule as the voters wanted them to. I get the question all the time, how about using people in Lebanon by Hezbollah and others to commit acts of terrorism? This is what we have today. We have an expansion in the concept of human trafficking that is taking forms that we were not familiar with three years ago. It was not in the vision of Chris Smith, because you mentioned Chris Smith, I love Chris Smith. Yes, I worked with Chris Smith. I testified before congress seven times. I don't know if you saw me on TV, yes. And I really very

proud of the TVPA, 132 pages long, an act that was amended four times. President Clinton, the man, going to have the woman soon, signed into law the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and then it was amended in 2003 and 2005 and 2008 and 2013. Where in the world you have a law that yields itself to the cry of victims of human trafficking? Only in the United States of America and only the U.S. Congress.

In the Arab world we have very alarming reports because in Qatar, Qatar is planning to hold the World Cup in 2022 and perhaps airlines ambassadors will think about doing something in Qatar in preparing for the World Cup in 2022. There are already reports of human exploitation in Qatar, many being hired from all over the world, not being paid, their passports are confiscated, a miserable case of human trafficking, although I'm going to be in Qatar next week, so I have to say something good about Qatar, but perhaps, yeah, perhaps not in the American Military University. Maybe somewhere else. But these are reports that tells you something about a form of labor trafficking that is the norm in countries of the Middle East. Yes, we have trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, but in the Middle East almost 80% of trafficking is trafficking for the purpose of labor, especially domestic work. You know, I was in Kuwait a few weeks ago. In Kuwait, 660,000 domestic workers. Qatar, 320,000 domestic workers and the Qataris themselves are 250,000. So it's a real problem, labor trafficking, especially trafficking for the purpose of domestic work. But the key reports that are coming out now from Iraq and Syria are the reports about ISIS, or ISIL, because I don't want to upset President Obama, he uses ISIL and not ISIS, which is fine; both are correct. And, reports of sexual slavery. Women being recruited from all over Iraq and Syria and all over providing sexual services for soldiers in the name of the Islamic state, and like Obama said, they are not Islamic and they are not state. You can tell that I voted for President Obama, yes. But, that is another type of report that you want to think about. Especially if the U.S. wants to do something about it. There are reports, I have from Egypt, there are reports of what we call kidney transplants. Kidney tourism. Where you have rich Arabs going to a poor country like Egypt and buying kidneys. Yes, trafficking in human organs. Arabs coming to Egypt, getting married. Which is fine, but when you

have a Saudi who's 78 years old coming to Egypt marrying a girl who is 14, that is trafficking for the purpose of child marriage. This is a very famous case where the court said we are not going only to punish the Saudi, but we are going to punish the parents because they've failed to take care of their children. We are going to punish the lawyer who executed the marriage contract and we are going to punish the marriage broker as well, and that's why I like the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of the United States of America of 2005, which was signed into law by President Bush. And in our anti-trafficking movement, President Bush, the 43, I'm just trying to tell you he just had a book out on Bush the 43rd, and he was, and still is, our hero in the anti-trafficking movement. Because President Bush kept signing into laws, laws that protect victims of trafficking, the PROTECT Act, Child Sex Tourism, International Marriage Broker Regulation Act, and so on. I'm not sure whether he was reading the laws, but he signed them. Yes, yes and I really feel good about that. It also tells you something, that I voted for Bush at this time and I was a big supporter of the Iraqi War, because I thought in the Middle East how can we get rid of dictators by only a military solution and kicking Saddam Hussein out. Now we have also reports of refugees, Syrian refugees, hundreds of thousands of them, being sold in what we call temporary marriage or pleasure marriage and also this is another form of human trafficking. Human trafficking is all about taking advantage of the vulnerable. It's not about slavery and that's why I never say trafficking is slavery, no. Slavery is very [inaudible]. Slavery is ownership. Slavery is buying and selling. Trafficking is wider in scope, it's about human exploitation. This is something that the International Law brought for us in 2000. We already had slavery. 1926 international convention of slavery; we had the 1926 Convention of Slavery. We had a shift in 2002 from human slavery to human exploitation, this is what we call human trafficking. Now, responses. I can go on and on, but I can-- I'm looking at you because you're my boss here.

>> Oh no, I'm enjoying your presentation.

>> Ok, excellent. Alright, so responses. I'm a big believer in the League of Arab States. I'm a big believer in international organizations. I was in Geneva a few weeks ago, speaking to the CEDAW Committee on article 10 of the Conventional Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. I was in the CRC committee in Geneva, talking about children's rights and so on, and I am I big believer in the work of the League of Arab States. And I'm a big believer on the Arab Charter on Human Rights. The Arab Charter on Human Rights prohibits human trafficking. It is really important to think an eye on the first Arab human rights court that will be established in Bahrain, hopefully very soon. But on the national levels, I have a success story to tell. Although we have a lot of problems in the Arab world, but a success story is a legislative movement. Almost every country in the Arab world now has a law prohibiting human trafficking and I know you're going to come and tell me it's not about laws, it's about implementation. Yes, but you have to start with a law and then you move from law to law enforcement and implementation. Morocco has a draft. Libya has a draft. Yemen has a draft. Tunisia has a draft. Palestine has a draft and I'm working with all of them. And all other Arab countries have laws on combating human trafficking. A success story that you don't find in other areas of human rights. Where are the Arab laws on combating violence against women? You won't find them. Jordan is the only country that has a law on violence against women. How about sexual harassment? I was happy that Egypt just passed a law combating sexual harassment, which is a huge problem in Egypt, but all other countries do not have the same thing. Although, Saudi Arabia has something recently on violence against women. So, when you take a look at Arab legislation, you are going to find out that they are expanding the concept in a big way. Qatar adds exploitation in children for the purpose of pornography and of course here in this country under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act the word prostitution does not appear in the TVPA, instead we use the word commercial sexual act. And under commercial sexual act American courts tells us it's about prostitution, but it's not

limited to prostitution, it is also about pornography and child sex tourism as well. I like laws in the Arab world that expand our definition of commercial sexual exploitation that you mention to include not only prostitution, but pornography as well. The law of Saudi Arabia mentions really an interesting form of human trafficking and that is using people for the purpose of medical or scientific experiments. And I don't want to, you know, I am a big corporate guy, I love corporations, but sometimes pharmaceutical companies bring people to try out new drugs and so on, it is a form of human trafficking under the Saudi law. The Egyptian law talks about begging because if you come to Egypt, and I'm sure you've visited, is it too many children. We are 19 millions now. Every nine months there is a new million Egyptians. Amazing what is happening. Too many children, what you call street children, being used for the purpose of begging. The law talks about begging. The law of Lebanon talks about using people in terrorist activities and I really like this law because Lebanon, as you know, is an infrastructure for too many terrorist acts. I like that the law addresses terrorism as a form of human trafficking. Something that Chris Smith added to the TVPA in 2005. I am referring here to article 112, my favorite article of the act. Yes, because it talks about research. I come from Johns Hopkins, I'm an academic institution, I love research. I went to Congress and said where is the research provision in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act? In 2003, article 112 was added. In 2005, they added the link between trafficking and terrorism and I'm telling you there's no research, although maybe Homeland Security will tell you otherwise, I love Homeland Security, but I didn't see any credible research in the link between human trafficking and terrorism. Responses can take different forms. I'm going to talk about one only. Yes, because you want to tell me shut up and let somebody else sing. You know that's that book, I like that book from Laura Ingraham, yeah. Shut up and let somebody else sing, I'm going to shut up in five minutes. So, I want to talk about one response which is very important to me. The whole problem in the Middle East is religion. Religion. Sunni, Shia, ISIS, ISIL, it's all about religion. So, the response has to be a religious response with all due respect to military responses, with all due respect to security responses, and I am for military responses, I am for security responses, but they won't help us.

Al-Qaeda is out, now we have ISIL, we are going to have another because it's a religious problem that the United States of America, and combating human trafficking is one of the foreign policy objectives of the U.S., has to think about it. I always thought about religion. I had a conference on religion and human trafficking and I invited a Rabbi and a Priest and a Muslim scholar. Imagine the three of them, setting like what we had just ten minutes ago, and I thought about the following. If God prohibits Jews and Muslims from eating pork, that's why I was happy that you have tuna salad for lunch, yes. So, I think God would prohibit Jews and Muslims and Christians from using services or products provided by victims of trafficking if they are subject to exploitation. Not reasoning by analogy. If you cannot eat pork, I don't think you should use a product that been manufactured by child labor, or forced labor, or labor trafficking and that's why I like the Department of Labor. I don't know whether they were invited or not, but every year they publish an annual report on products manufactured through child labor and forced labor, this last report, 134 products including diamond, and gold, and fish, and rice. In 74 countries, manufacture through child labor and forced labor, I would say let's have fatwas, let's have opinions granted by Muslim scholars. Make sure that Muslims understand all these forms of, whatever you call a jihad or whatever, are forms of human trafficking and they must be confronted and they must be addressed as such. I'm going to conclude by my last trip. Last week, I was in Sudan. Yes, and in Sudan they have a new law, just came out. So, I want to explain the law and it is the only and the first Arab law that talks about the [inaudible] liability. Carrying by air, carrying by sea, carrying by land. Very interesting concept, but I am a big believer not in corporate criminal liability, I am like you, a big believer in corporate social responsibility. I will end, that's my third time to end and I always end three times. That's the last time, I promise. I want to take a look at the American Military University courses. So, I text before lunch my assistant, Olga, and I told her, Olga send me a list of courses offered by the American Military University. They send me too many courses, I couldn't read. I said wow, are you guys offering all these courses? How about human trafficking. So I get the agenda and I discovered that this Wednesday, I'm not going to be here, but from 9 to 10, you have a session on incorporating human trafficking

in educational curricula. I go around the world and I say where is human trafficking in the course that you're teaching on international relations. Where is human trafficking in the course that you're teaching on human security? Where is the course on human trafficking in the course that you're teaching on business? I would like the American Military University, if I am allowed to make a recommendation, I will make a recommendation that let us send a questionnaire to every professor in this nice, distinguished university and ask the professor, where is human trafficking in the course that you are teaching? Thank you.