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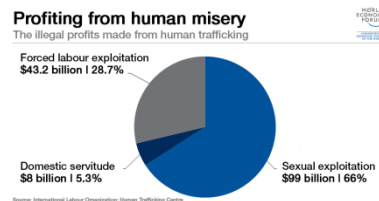
The Free Project Newsletter

Human Trafficking and the International Market

By Ajay Dave

Economists apply math and statistics to human behavior to identify trends and patterns in supply and demand. These two forces drive economic theory and influence our individual decisions. Globalization has created an international market driven by a network of buyers and sellers that sprawls across the globe. There are many determinants of supply and demand, many of which we don't understand or that we deem insignificant. However, if the butterfly effect, a mathematical theory describing the far-removed effects of seemingly insignificant actions, is true in any discipline, it would be economics.

Human trafficking occupies a dark corner of the formal market, but it's regulated by the same laws of supply and demand, which means it exerts influence on the formal market. While it may be difficult to see the trafficking market, it's definitely measurable. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the trafficking trade nets over \$150 billion annually, trailing behind only drugs and arms smuggling in terms of criminal revenue streams.



This is the beginning of an article from The Free Project website. To read the article, visit <http://www.thefreeproject.org/2017/04/27/human-trafficking-and-the-international-market/>

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What Can You Do?

Know how to spot signs of human trafficking in an airport.

To learn more about this action, check out the End Slavery Now website for the signs at <http://www.endslaverynow.org/act/action-library/know-how-to-spot-signs-of-human-trafficking-in-an-airport>

Raising Awareness in Austin

My name is Adriel Vigo, founder and president of the Austin Free Project. The AFP was founded to bring awareness to the growing issue of human trafficking; and involve the community in the battle against it. At its peak, AFP was a partnership of two universities and one community college with members including students of University of Texas, Texas State, and Austin Community College. AFP saw its beginning by creating awareness campaigns throughout college campuses in the Austin area. This was a great way to inform and involve the public of how human trafficking was very much alive and well in our own city. Following through the next months we concentrated on awareness campaigns by passing out fliers to local

businesses and restaurants, concentrating specifically on the service industry. These fliers would have details on signs on how to recognize human trafficking (victim or trafficker). Upon giving these fliers out to businesses we would take some time to go over what human trafficking is and how to recognize the signs. We would often concentrate on businesses and restaurants located near massage parlors, hotels and other potential hot spots for human trafficking. At this point, AFP went on a brief hiatus, but I continued to work with local businesses (especially hotels) human trafficking prevention. I was often shocked at the lack of training hotel clerks had to recognize the signs of human trafficking; there were so many red flags for human trafficking that were clear to the trained eye. At this point I felt it necessary to launch an awareness campaign for

the hotel industry. In response, I created a human trafficking training program specifically geared towards the hotel industry and sex slavery. The training attempts to erase many stereotypes of human trafficking victims, along with stereotypes of traffickers themselves. As of now 75 hotels have accepted our training program to be submitted! Many of the managers expressed excitement in training their staff to recognize the signs of human trafficking to join the cause. We live in a time where we have a myriad of resources at our disposal to raise awareness to the growing cancer of human trafficking. Together we can be a voice for those it has been taken from; and give back freedom to those it always belonged to.

This article is condensed from The Free Project website. To read the full article, visit <http://www.thefreeproject.org/2017/04/20/raising-awareness-of-trafficking-in-austin-texas/>

Their story

Ishmael Beah

According to Beah, his life before the war was very simple but very happy. Life was peaceful, beautiful, and the people in his village were kind, trusting and amicable. They felt far from the rage and spread of the war's turmoil. Beah was a growing boy, interested in American hip-hop, and lived a normal life with his family. When he was just 12 years old, he and his friends left home to perform in a talent contest in a town a few miles away. While on the road, they found out that their village was attacked, so Beah and his friends ran back home only to face a horrific scene.

"We encountered people running," he describes. "We saw men carrying their dead children in their arms. I saw a man cry for the first time in my life, so this really disturbed me quite a bit. So we decided that, you know, we can't go back home anymore and decided to wait. Hopefully to see our families come through, but they didn't come."

With their homes destroyed and with their safety at risk, Beah and his friends roamed from village to village scrounging for food and

water. After a year of wandering the countryside, Beah received news that his family was at a nearby village. As he approached the village, however, Beah only came upon gunfire, smoke and ashes. The whole village was burned down, and his family members were incinerated along with it.

Without a family to reconcile with, Beah lost hope and found no reason to keep running. Beah went to a village run by government soldiers. There was food, soccer games and places to sleep, and Beah thought it was a good place to stay. Staying at the soldiers' village came with a price.



Ishmael Beah

He continues, "First, you know, you get your own weapon and everything and the magazines and the bullets, and then they give you drugs. I was descending into this hell so quickly, and I just started shooting, and that's what I did for over two years basically. Whoever the commander said, 'This guy is the enemy,' there were no questions asked. There was

no second guessing because when you ask a question and you say 'Why,' they'll shoot you right away."

Using fear, indoctrination, cocaine, marijuana and brown-brown (cocaine mixed with gun powder), the government army turned Beah and other children into killing machines.

This is the beginning of an article posted by [endslaverynow.org](http://www.endslaverynow.org). All content was found on the End Slavery Now website. To continue reading Ishmael's story, go to <http://www.endslaverynow.org/blog/articles/ishmael-beah>

The Free Project is a part of Historians Against Slavery, a group of scholars who bring historical context and scholarship to the modern-day antislavery movement.

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For more information on The Free Project & Historians Against Slavery, please visit our websites:

<http://www.thefreeproject.org>

<http://www.historiansagainstslavery.org>