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Article in Brief

Chinese hunger for sons fuels boys' abductions

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/05/world/asia/05kidnap.html?_r=4&scp=1&sq=kidnapped%20boys&st=cse

New York Times, 4 April 2009: Thousands of children stolen from the teeming industrial hubs of China's Pearl River Delta have never been recovered by their parents or by the police. But anecdotal evidence suggests the children do not travel far. Although some are sold to buyers in Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam, most of the boys are purchased domestically by families desperate for a male heir. The demand is especially strong in rural areas of south China, where a tradition of favoring boys over girls and the country's strict family planning policies have turned the sale of stolen children into a thriving business.

The extent of the problem is a matter of dispute. The Chinese government insists there are fewer than 2,500 cases of human trafficking each year, a figure that includes both women and children. But advocates for abducted children say there may be hundreds of thousands.

Official: China pledges to better protect migrants' rights

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/01/content_11112480.htm

UNITED NATIONS, March 31 (Xinhua) -- A top Chinese family planning official said here Tuesday that the Chinese government pledged to better protect the legitimate rights of migrants by promulgating and implementing regulations on reproductive health.

Li Bin, China's minister in charge of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said the Chinese government will make efforts to implement programs for functional zones of population and development, research and develop policies and measures for the orderly transfer of population and balanced urban-rural development. The government

will also accelerate the development of a new mechanism to manage the migrants and provide quality services to migrants, the minister said.

Latest statistics from China's National Statistics Bureau show that China has 225 million rural migrant workers as of 2008.

Pope calls for action to stop human trafficking

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6039839.ece>

The Sunday Times, 5 April 2009: Pope Benedict XVI today called for urgent global action to halt human trafficking, recalling last week's tragedy when more than 200 migrants heading for Europe drowned off the Libyan coast after their overloaded boat capsized.

"We cannot resign ourselves to such tragedies, which unfortunately have been repeating themselves for some time," Pope Benedict said at Angelus prayers after his Palm Sunday Mass on St Peter's Square. Pope Benedict added: "The scope of the problem requires urgent strategies co-ordinated by the European Union and African countries, as well as the adoption of adequate humanitarian measures to prevent these migrants from going to unscrupulous traffickers."

Pope Benedict said more desperate people were trying to reach Europe because of the global economic crisis.

UK Commits £1.7million, creates new initiatives to fight trafficking

<http://www.policeprofessional.com/news.aspx?id=8428>

Police Professional, 2 April 2009: Yesterday, the new UK-based anti-trafficking initiative *The Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings* took effect. In addition to creating minimum legal rights for victims of trafficking, the initiative will double anti-trafficking funding to £1.7million, mostly for services for victims.

Some of the new measures include: A National Referral Mechanism, providing a nationally agreed framework to help front line staff identify victims of trafficking and offer them support; £4 million over two years to enhance the services for victims including an expansion of accommodation and support through the criminal justice system- resulting in more traffickers being brought to justice; and granting a 45 day minimum reflection and recovery period to victims and the possibility of a one-year renewable residence permit.

中国人求儿若渴助长儿童拐卖

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/05/world/asia/05kidnap.html?_r=4&scp=1&sq=kidnapped%20boys&st=cse

纽约时报, 2009年04月04日: 在中国珠江三角洲拥挤的工业区, 这些孩子, 还有其他成千上万的孩子被拐走后, 他们的父母或者警察再也没能找到他们。但有小道消息宣称, 孩子们并没被卖到太远的地方。被拐卖孩子的父母还有一些调查过这些案件的警员说, 尽管也有被卖去新加坡、马来西亚和越南的, 大多数男孩都由渴望男丁的当地家庭买了去。在中国南方农村地区, 因为农村重男轻女的传统思想和严格的计划生育政策, 这种对男丁的需求尤其强烈旺盛, 拐卖儿童的买卖也越做越火。

问题的严重程度一直备受争议。中国政府坚持认为每年拐卖人口包括妇女和孩子的案子低于 2500 件, 负责拐卖儿童案件的律师却认为数字可能达到几十万。

李斌在联合国介绍中国有关人口与发展工作

http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2009-04/01/content_11109546.htm

新华网, 2009年03月31日: 中国代表团团长和中国国家人口和计划生育委员会主任李斌在联合国人口与发展委员会第42届年会上发言时说, 中国政府认真履行对国际人口和发展大会行动纲领和千年发展目标的承诺, 经过坚持不懈的努力, 中国在人口与发展方面取得了显著成就, 为稳定世界人口做出了积极贡献, 主要表现为: 一、坚持改革开放, 为全球消除贫困做出积极贡献; 二、坚持计划生育基本国策, 促进人的全面发展; 三、促进性别平等, 不断满足人民群众计划生育和生殖健康的需求; 四、努力促进人口有序流动和合理分布, 为流动人口提供同等的公共服务; 五、坚持实施可持续发展战略, 促进人口、资源环境协调发展。

根据国家统计局的最新数据, 在2008年中国有2.25亿流动人口。

教皇呼吁采取措施阻止拐卖人口

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article6039839.ece>

泰晤士报 (英国), 2009年04月05日: 教皇本笃十六世主持棕枝主日祈福, 为试图逃离非洲的人们祈祷, 他们通常是搭乘超载的小船, 寻求在欧洲过上更好的生活。教皇提到上星期200多人被淹死的事件。这些前往欧洲的人乘坐的船过于拥挤, 在地中海的利比亚沿海倾覆。

教皇在午间祈祷中说: “虽然这些悲剧已经不断的重复了一段时间, 我们不能任由它们的存在”。他呼吁欧盟和非洲国家为应对这场危机而制定紧急战略, 并且尽快采取人道措施, 确保移民不会成为肆无忌惮的人口走私贩的受害者。

教皇本笃表示国际金融危机将会导致更多走头无路的人企图前往欧洲。

英国投入170万英镑 开展新的打击拐卖人口活动

<http://www.policeprofessional.com/news.aspx?id=8428>

公安网 (英国), 2009年04月02日: 英国昨天开始实施《欧洲大会理事会反对拐卖人口行动》的反拐活动。这个活动不仅保护拐卖受害者最基本的合法权益, 同时将反拐经费增加到170万英镑, 主要用于对受害人的帮助。

新的措施包括: 国家级的咨询服务机制, 提供一个国家框架帮助一线工作人员确认拐卖受害者并帮助他(她)们; 在两年之内投入400万英镑加强为拐卖受害者提供的服务, 包括扩大住宿的选择和在司法过程中提供协助, 以将更多的人贩子绳之以法; 允许受害者最少45天的恢复时间, 并且为他(她)们提供可延期一年的居住许可。

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