



Law Enforcement Strategies to Combat Human Trafficking

Short introduction on the BKA

Interpol/Europol

To combat this international crime effectively and sustainably the cooperation between all countries of origin and countries of destination is of crucial importance. BKA is Germany's National Central Bureau for Interpol and the national contact point for Europol. BKA intensifies the international cooperation by organizing meetings on working as well as on management level. Recently, for example some colleagues of mine were in Romania and Bulgaria and have intensified the cooperation with colleagues on site. Furthermore we organize regular working meetings, e.g. with Belarus and conduct training courses in cooperation with the local police training institutions in some countries. It is important that we know each other's legal and factual possibilities and boundaries.

In about 50 countries BKA has posted liaison officers who support us in urgent and important matters.

National central agency of the German criminal police

BKA is the focal point of police intelligence for Germany regarding trafficking in persons. We analyze, coordinate investigations of the competent state police organizations and initiate as well own investigations.

Since 1997, BKA has been conducting training courses for police officers regarding this crime phenomenon. The fight against trafficking in persons can only be successful if the responsible police agents are sensitized and qualified for the task. Therefore our training courses have a special focus – next to legal aspects and examples of cases – on intercultural communication and interviewing traumatized victims. Furthermore a representative of the specialized counseling services is giving input in all training courses regarding the exploitation of persons.



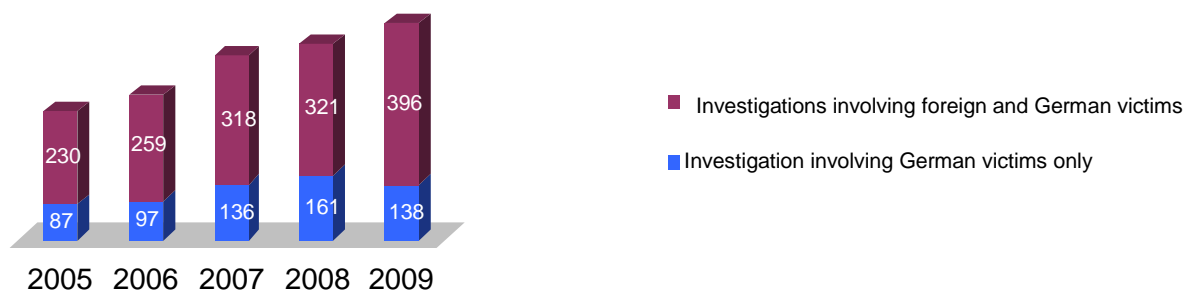
In order to gain an overview of the situation and the developments in the field of trafficking in persons, BKA has annually compiled and published the Federal Situation Report “Trafficking in Persons” since 1994.

Since 2005, the year of its introduction as specific offence into the criminal code, trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation is included into this mentioned situation report.

The latest situation report was published two weeks ago. I will give you a short introduction into the developments of the situation in the area of trafficking for sexual exploitation. As every year, the situation report will be translated into English and is available on the BKA’s homepage (www.bka.de).

In the 2009 report all police investigations on the federal and state level which were concluded in 2009 are included. 534 investigations were reported in 2009, an increase of 11%, compared with the year before.

The situation report contains only data of detected and confirmed trafficking cases. The dark field is probably much higher.



Police activities, police controls are crucial to initiate investigations. These police controls are important for victim identification and in shedding light into the dark field, even if the ratio of investigations conducted after the reports of victims or related persons has reached a relatively high level.



Suspects

In 2009, 777 suspects were registered in the concluded police investigations which is a decline of 1% in comparison with 2008. 77% of the suspects were male. The majority of the suspects are Germans, Bulgarians, Romanians and Turkish.

Nationalities of the perpetrators 2009/2008

	2009		2008	
	Number	%	Number	%
EUROPE	690	88,8 %	709	90 %
Germany	279	35,9 %	316	40 %
(Place of birth not in Germany)	(39)	(5,0 %)	(50)	(16 %)
Bulgaria	125	16,1 %	84	11 %
Romania	82	10,5 %	62	8 %
Turkey	81	10,4 %	60	8 %
Bosnia-Herzegovina	26	3,4 %	13	2 %
Czech Republic	16	2,1 %	9	1 %
Others	81	10,4 %	165	23 %
ASIA, incl.	11	1,4 %	7	1 %
Iran	3	0,4 %	4	0,5 %
AFRICA, incl.	37	4,8 %	16	2 %
Nigeria	29	3,7 %	13	1,7 %
AMERICA	3	0,4 %	3	0,4 %
Unknown/unclear	36	4,6 %	50	6 %
Total	777	*100 %	785	*100 %

Victims

In 2009, 710 victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation were discovered, an increase of 5% in comparison with 2008. The vast majority (87%) are female.

**Nationalities of the victims 2009 / 2008**

	2009		2008	
	Number	%	Number	%
EUROPE	609	85,8 %	609	90 %
Germany	176	24,8 %	192	28 %
Romania	141	19,9 %	137	20 %
Bulgaria	137	19,3 %	119	18 %
Poland	27	3,8 %	37	5 %
Turkey	27	3,8 %	18	3 %
Hungary	21	3,0 %	36	5 %
Slowakische Republic	17	2,4 %	10	1 %
Others	63	8,8 %	60	9 %
AFRICA , incl.	48	6,8 %	36	5 %
Nigeria	34	4,8 %	25	4 %
ASIA	16	2,2 %	9	1 %
AMERICA	10	1,4 %	8	1 %
Unknown/unclear	27	3,8 %	14	2 %
Total	710	*100 %	676	*100 %

The number of German victims which have the highest percentage with about 25% of all victims, has slightly decreased. We found notable increases amongst Nigerian (+36%) and Bulgarian (+15%) nationals.

As in the years before, about half of the victims came from Eastern and South Eastern Europe, especially from Romania and Bulgaria. The development in the figures of Romanian and Bulgarian victims probably is connected to the membership of Romania and Bulgaria in the European Union since January 1st, 2007, which made entry into Germany, stay in Germany and working in Germany much easier.

The difficulties in the treatment of possible victims from Romania and Bulgaria are to a large extent due to their lack of cooperation with police and counseling services. Initial statements are often revoked, especially when victims return – upon their own wish – to their country of origin during the investigations. This impedes the judicial process to a great extent or makes



it impossible at all. The law enforcement agencies are increasingly confronted with the phenomenon of legally residing prostitutes from those two countries working as independent service providers, registered with a tax number. From an objective point of view, they could be considered victims of trafficking, but the legal proof is difficult and often nearly impossible due to the lack of personal evidence. 95 of the 710 victims had an illegal migratory status in Germany, amongst them 30 victims of Nigerian nationality and 13 victims from other African countries.

The increase in cases with Nigerian victims can be explained by a raise in awareness on the police side as well as more and stricter controls in this area of the phenomenon. BKA in cooperation with the (Länder) state police conducted several workshops to sensitize police officers. The major topics dealt with were "Intercultural Communication", with a special focus on voodoo rituals and an input given by the deputy head of the NAPTIP (the authority responsible for fighting trafficking in persons in Nigeria.). Furthermore a nationwide control day was conducted with a few hundred of police officers on duty which resulted in improved and important strategic intelligence and raised suspicion on possible cases of trafficking. We know that the phenomenon of trafficking in Nigerian victims is not limited to Germany, but affects our European neighbors as well.

BKA will continue its activities in this field and will initiate a joint workshop with the judicial authorities, to raise awareness in the judiciary.

To prove a trafficking case, we need the statement of the affected women. This is rather difficult due to the fact that the women involved are afraid of the police, ashamed or full of fear of the offenders, who are very often heavily violent. In many cases women are recruited by persons they are socially close with or who at least come from the same town, which endangers them also in their country of origin. Returning to their home countries often means incurring a high risk for life and limb. Therefore I ask you as consular officers in your respective embassies for support, when for example the women need a renewal of their personal documents.. I would like to kindly request you to make it possible that these victims do not need to travel to their country of origin to get an extension of the duration of their passport or to get a new passport. We cannot support this due to the high risk the victims incur. Furthermore, the women are often still very unstable and need regular medical care.



This is where you are able to support our activities which would be highly appreciated. If you have any questions or problems with a case, feel free to contact us at the BKA anytime. We try to answer all your questions or get you in touch with the responsible police authorities. I ask you to support counseling services and police in their tasks of combating trafficking in human beings.

In order to counsel the women professionally, who are often traumatized we cooperate very closely with specialized counseling services which are very important partners in the cooperation.

To institutionalize cooperation, we have developed a so called cooperation concept on the Federal level in the year 1999. The states have adopted this concept respectively in their own agreements between police and counseling services.

In addition to the concrete involvement of the specialized counseling services in investigations regarding the psycho-social care of victims, the umbrella organization of all German counseling services, the KOK and BKA are cooperating in various projects. Let me just give you three examples of workshops which we organize together with the KOK in 2010. The issues covered are the strengthening of cooperation, on the problems with Bulgarian and Romanian victims and offenders and trafficking in persons for the purpose of labor exploitation. We also involve the specialized counseling services on a regular basis in our training courses for law enforcement personnel in Germany and abroad. We are convinced that cooperation with the specialized counseling services in this field of crime is a necessity in order to stabilize the victims on the one side and to ensure criminal proceedings on the other side

Let me conclude:

In order to prosecute trafficking cases we need the statement of the affected women. Due to the regulations of the German justice system the victim has to witness during the court session. This is the reason why victims often have to remain in Germany till the conclusion of judicial proceedings.



The fight against trafficking in persons needs specially trained and sensitized law enforcement personnel. Not only within the police forces, but also in the judiciary as well as within all authorities which play a role in combating trafficking in persons. A new study commissioned by the BKA and carried out by Cornelia Helfferich, Barbara Kavemann and Heike Rabe titled "Determinants of victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation willingness to make a statement" delivered the same result. The study has been published; however, it is only available in German language for the time being.

Intercultural understanding is the basis for a correct treatment of victims. The knowledge about voodoo and other special cultural background is essential to gain the victims' trust and keep it.

Combating trafficking in persons is not a sole police problem. It needs the coordinated and structured efforts from all affected groups. To combat trafficking successfully and to protect its victims, we need the support and cooperation of all affected. Of special importance is the political will to fight the crime. Investigations of trafficking cases are extremely difficult, because they depend on personal evidence, the statement of the affected women. To gain these statements is not easy, due to the trauma the victims often suffered and who often make false statements in part due to fear and shame. And in addition, those investigations are time consuming and cost intensive.