

NTS Bulletin July 2011 (Issue 2)

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MAIN HIGHLIGHT

US Annual Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report Released

The new *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report* by the US Department of State was published in late June. The report is an effort to comprehensively measure the human trafficking situation across the globe. In addition to an analysis of the problem in various parts of the world, it also offers a classification system that places countries in specific tiers according to how well they have adopted the recommendations provided by the US administration.

While Singapore has been taken off the watch list, it remains classified as a 2nd tier country. According to the authors of the report, the country still needs to improve its anti-trafficking measures and continue to comply with US suggestions. While Singaporean officials welcomed the upgrading of their country's status, they have also expressed concerns that the report is 'riddled with inaccuracies in the section on Singapore'.

The report has received attention from politicians, media and activists from across the globe. It is currently debated in both academic and non-academic circles as concerns have arisen over its accuracy and neutrality.

Additional Info:

- Pelham, Victoria, 'Fight against Human Trafficking Loses Ground in 11 Nations', *Bloomberg*, 28 June 2011.
- Goh, Melissa, 'Malaysia Hits Back at US over Trafficking Watchlist', *Channel NewsAsia*, 29 June 2011.
- 'Singapore's Efforts in Combating Human Trafficking', *Today*, 29 June 2011.
- US Department of State, 2011, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2011*.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

News & Commentaries

- 'Three Trafficked out of Every 1,000 People across Asia Pacific: Report', *The Malay Mail*, 10 June 2011.
- Alkhatib, Shaffiq, 'Man in Human Trafficking Syndicate Jailed', *Today*, 18 June 2011.
- Hockenberry, Alison Craiglow, 'How Travelers Can Help Stem Human Trafficking', *Huffington Post*, 26 June 2011.
- 'Aussie Accused of Human Trafficking', *AFP*, 29 June 2011.
- 'Victim Turned Human Trafficker Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison', *VietNamNet Bridge*, 30 June 2011.
- Azevedo, Tiago, 'Human Trafficking: "Macau's System Has Worked Well"', *Macau Daily Times*, 1 July 2011.



Selected Publications

- Balch, Alex and Andrew Geddes, 2011, 'Opportunity from Crisis? Organisational Responses to Human Trafficking in the UK', *The British Journal of Politics & International Relations*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 26–41.

The authors identify three levels of narrative constructions of human trafficking. Using the 2006 UK immigration crisis (known commonly as the 'Foreign Prisoners' Scandal') as a reference, the article examines how, why and when these narrative constructions came into being and what influenced them. They argue that the interaction within and among the three levels led to adaptation of organisational roles and prompted changes in response to human trafficking in the UK.

- Uy, Robert, 2011, 'Symposium: Blinded by Red Lights: Why Trafficking Discourse Should Shift Away from Sex and the "Perfect Victim" Paradigm', *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law & Justice*, Vol. 26, pp. 204–19.

The *US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report* has come to represent the leading international enforcement mechanism for human trafficking. The monitoring standards are, however, based on the US' domestic approach to tackling the issue. According to this article, that approach is predominantly founded on constructing victims of trafficking based on race, gender and class, which is why the trafficking discourse has been unable to embrace a more nuanced understanding of the issue, one that recognises other forms of trafficking, such as forced labour.

Events & Announcements

- 'Training on Human Trafficking for Peacekeepers', 25–29 September 2011, Cairo, Egypt.
- 'The 2011 Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking: What We Know and What We Need to Know', 29 September – 1 October 2011, Lincoln, NE, US.

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INTERNAL AND CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT



News & Commentaries

- Petty, Martin, 'Myanmar Fighting Flares after Peace Talks Fail', *Reuters*, 20 June 2011.
- 'Job Creation Challenges in Former Conflict Zone', *IRIN*, 22 June 2011.
- Bower, Ernest Z., 'An Asean Challenge: Changing Paradigm in South China Sea', *Jakarta Globe*, 27 June 2011.
- Arsenault, Chris, 'Water Wars: 21st Century Conflicts', *Al Jazeera*, 29 June 2011.
- Khan, Shamshad A., 'India-Pakistan Talks: Media's Role Crucial for Normalisation of Relations', Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), 29 June 2011.
- 'Nation Watching Preliminary Khmer Rouge Hearing', *Voice of America*, 29 June 2011.
- Sullivan, Boris, 'Thailand's Hard Stance on UNESCO under Scrutiny', *Thailand Business News*, 29 June 2011.
- Auslin, Michael, 'Billiards in the South China Sea', *The Wall Street Journal*, 30 June 2011.
- Lizee, Pierre P., 'Asia and the Responsibility to Protect', *The Jakarta Post*, 30 June 2011.
- 'Refugee Issue on Backburner as Thai Election Nears', *Mizzima*, 30 June 2011.
- Gottlieb, Benjamin, 'World Watches for Fair Thai Election', *CNN*, 4 July 2011.

Selected Publications

- Cook, Alistair D.B., 2011, *Differentiated Policies: Indonesia's International Leadership and Internal Challenges*, Policy Brief No. 12, Singapore: RSIS Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies.

This policy brief uses Papua as a case study to highlight the internal challenges that could potentially compromise Indonesia's position as a champion of democracy and human rights in the region. It suggests that shifting the lens from traditional security to human security may be conducive to both identifying and addressing the key challenges facing Papua.

- Blum, Andrew, 2011, *Improving Peacebuilding Evaluation: A Whole-of-field Approach*, Special Report 280, Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

This report argues that existing methods of peacebuilding evaluation are systemically problematic, hindering the effective evaluation and formulation of response strategies. It identifies four problems associated with peacebuilding evaluation and puts forward three categories of solutions for improvement.

Events & Announcements

- 'The Third International Africa Peace and Conflict Resolution Conference', 26–28 July 2011, Accra, Ghana.
- '6th European Consortium for Political Research', 25–27 August 2011, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- 'War and Displacement Conference', 6–7 September 2011, Plymouth, UK.

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MIGRATION

News & Commentaries

- 'ILO, MOM Sign Agreement To Improve Labour Practices in ASEAN Region', *Channel NewsAsia*, 16 June 2011.
- 'ILO: Domestic Workers in Asia "Most Vulnerable"', *GMA News*, 17 June 2011.
- Mercado, Juan, 'Viewpoint: Flak Jackets', *Inquirer News*, 21 June 2011.
- Samboh, Esther, 'Govt To Spend Rp 1.4t To Create Jobs after Moratorium', *The Jakarta Post*, 28 June 2011.
- Skinner, E. Benjamin, 'How U.S. Budget Cuts Prolong Global Slavery', *TIME*, 28 June 2011.
- Pomfret, James and Chris Buckley, 'Special Report: China Migrant Unrest Exposes Generation Faultline', *Reuters*, 29 June 2011.
- 'Saudi Arabia Bans Migrant Workers from Philippines and Indonesia', *ABC Radio Australia*, 30 June 2011.
- Suddath, Claire, 'Census Update: What the World Will Look Like in 2050', *TIME*, 30 June 2011.



Selected Publications

- Steel, Zachary, Belinda J. Liddell, Catherine R. Bateman-Steel et al., 2011, 'Global Protection and the Health Impact of Migration Interception', *PLoS Medicine*, Vol. 8, No. 6.

This article aims to shed light on the physical and mental health implications of various migration interception strategies – which encompasses immigration detention as well as pre-emptive strategies – being used to halt the movement of irregular migrants, including asylum seekers. The authors argue that health professionals have to become more engaged in discussions on migration in order to identify a global response to irregular migration that promotes, or at least mitigates, threats to good health.

- Rainbird, Sophia, 2011, 'Asylum Seeker "Vulnerability": The Official Explanation of Services Providers and the Emotive Responses of Asylum Seekers', *Community Development Journal*.

Based on fieldwork conducted in the UK, this article explores the complex relationship between asylum seekers and various support organisations. It suggests that service providers often operate from a stereotypical image of asylum seekers as vulnerable and dependent, to which the individuals often conform in order to attract assistance, thus ultimately perpetuating their social and political exclusion. To encourage proper integration and participation, the author advocates an active, two-way dialogue between service providers and asylum seekers.

Events & Announcements

- 'Householding in Transition: Emerging Dynamics in "Developing" East and Southeast Asia', 25–26 July 2011, Singapore.
- 'Migration 2011 Conference', 16–17 September 2011, Surfers Paradise, Australia.

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TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

News & Commentaries

- Ansley, Greg, 'Crime, Terror Fears Drive Border Clamp', *The New Zealand Herald*, 18 June 2011.
- 'Stakeholders Brainstorm on Organized Crime', *Ghana Government Official Portal*, 24 June 2011.
- 'Global Response Needed against Drug Trafficking: Sharma', *The Economic Times*, 25 June 2011.
- Ethirajan, Anbarasan, 'Bangladesh Intercepts Dried Turtle Smugglers', *BBC*, 27 June 2011.
- 'Transnational Crime an Increasing Threat: M'sian Home Minister', *The Star*, 30 June 2011.
- Ibraimov, Bakyt, 'Kyrgyz Intercept Gasoline-smuggling Trucks', *Central Asia Online*, 1 July 2011.
- 'Secretary-General Cites Growing Threat of Organized Transnational Crime, Small Arms Proliferation in Message to Caribbean Community Summit', *IEWY*, 3 July 2011.



Selected Publications

- Yeager, Matthew G., 2011, 'Fifty Years of Research on Illegal Enterprise: An Interview with Mark Haller', *Trends in Organized Crime*, 11 June.

This interview with Mark Haller, conducted in August 2010, discusses Haller's career and his research on organised crime. His study focuses on crime in Chicago and Philadelphia, in particular the business activities of Al Capone and Angelo Bruno and their respective associates. He concludes that illegal businesses must be distinguished analytically and empirically from fraternal criminal organisations.

- Franz, Andrew, 2011, 'Crimes against Water: Non-enforcement of State Water Pollution Laws', *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 4 June.

This paper discusses criminal water pollution. The author explores the fundamental challenges faced in fighting such crimes effectively. While there may exist a relatively consistent, content-neutral enforcement system at the federal level, this is not the case at the state level. The authors argue that, at the state level, there is a tendency for the law, and its enforcement, to lean towards protecting the interests of venture capitalists.

Events & Announcements

- 'Cyber Security Management Seminar 2011', 17–18 August 2011, Auckland, New Zealand.
- 'Conference on Law, Gender and Social Transformation', 29 August – 2 September 2011, Soweto, South Africa.

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WATER SECURITY

News & Commentaries

- Keith Schneider, 'Double Choke Point: Demand for Energy Tests Water Supply and Economic Stability in China and the U.S.', *Circle of Blue*, 22 June 2011.
- 'International Effort Launched To Tackle Water Scarcity and Conflict in Darfur', *allAfrica.com*, 27 June 2011.
- Clark, Duncan, 'Water Scarcity in Africa and the Middle East: Get the Data', *Guardian*, 28 June 2011.
- Hoe, Yeen Nie, 'PUB Unveils Singapore's Water Strategy for Next 50 Years', *Channel NewsAsia*, 28 June 2011.
- 'Wastewater Recycled for Drinking: Low Water Reserves Prompt Australian Push', *Circle of Blue*, 28 June 2011.
- Watts, Jonathan, 'China Told To Reduce Food Production or Face "Dire" Water Levels', *Guardian*, 28 June 2011.
- Lawrence, Felicity, 'Drought in East Africa the Result of Climate Change and Conflict', *Guardian*, 4 July 2011.
- Ng, Esther, 'Two New Reservoirs To Boost Singapore's Water Supply', *Today*, 4 July 2011.



Selected Publications

- Turral, Hugh, Jacob Burke and Jean-Marc Faurès, 2011, *Climate Change, Water and Food Security*, FAO Water Reports 36, Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

This report summarises current knowledge on the anticipated impacts of climate change on water availability for agriculture, and examines the implications for food security. It makes the case for the immediate implementation of strategies that will result in both positive development outcomes and greater resilience of agricultural systems. The report could help policymakers incorporate the water variable (as it applies to agriculture and other competing uses) into their adaptation responses.

- Quesada, Mónica García, 2011, *Water and Sanitation Services in Europe: Do Legal Frameworks Provide for 'Good Governance'?*, Dundee: UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science.

This study examines the national legal frameworks of six European countries to determine whether, and to what extent, they provide effective governance of water services provision. It identifies a knowledge deficit regarding practices that constitute good governance in this field and proposes that the functioning of different governance mechanisms in diverse regulatory settings could be evaluated by focusing on the principles of transparency, public participation and access to justice.

- Institute of Water Policy, 2011, *The Water Leader*, No. 3 (June), Singapore: Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

This issue features think pieces on various facets of urban water sustainability. The articles deal with: (1) the significant water issues of today, including water quality, water governance, climate change and the water-energy nexus, and the challenges associated with dealing with them; and (2) possible solutions or mechanisms for mitigating these challenges.

- Granit, Jakob, Andreas Lindstrom, Vladimir Dmitrevsky et al., 2011, *Managing and Developing the Water Resources Assets in Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia in Support of Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability with Lithuanian, Polish and Swedish Examples*, SIWI Paper 17, Stockholm: Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

This report demonstrates how effective water resource management can support sustainable economic development in sectors such as tourism, health, agriculture and industry while at the same time restoring ecosystem services. It outlines specific steps to be taken by the Kaliningrad Oblast both internally and in partnership with its neighbours in order to achieve concrete benefits from better management of water resources.

Events & Announcements

- '14th International River Symposium', 26–29 September 2011, Brisbane, Australia.
- 'Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspectives', 12–13 October 2011, Dresden, Germany.
- 'Vth World Aqua Congress 2011', 16–18 November 2011, New Delhi, India.

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About the Centre:

The Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies was inaugurated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan in May 2008. The Centre maintains research in the fields of Food Security, Climate Change, Energy Security, Health Security as well as Internal and Cross-Border Conflict. It produces policy-relevant analyses aimed at furthering awareness and building capacity to address NTS issues and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The Centre also provides a platform for scholars and policymakers within and outside Asia to discuss and analyse NTS issues in the region.

In 2009, the Centre was chosen by the MacArthur Foundation as a lead institution for the MacArthur Asia Security Initiative, to develop policy research capacity and recommend policies on the critical security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific.

The Centre is also a founding member and the Secretariat for the Consortium of Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia). More information on the Centre can be found at www.rsis.edu.sg/nts.