WHERE ARE THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

At the close of the investigation period for this report, the investigations had not been completed for 78% of the alleged victims [or approximately 958 persons]. Of those which had been completed [271 persons], LESS THAN 10 % WERE CONFIRMED as human trafficking, or 27 cases, or slightly over one case PER MONTH. Sex trafficking was suspected in 83% of the 1,229 reported alleged victims, or 1,020, which means that there were 795 cases undetermined at the close of this report, so theoretically, 22.5 of the 27 cases which were confirmed as human trafficking, were 'sex trafficking.' Again, this is about one case per month.

We do not know if the 958 incompleted cases were then rolled into and reported as part of the 2,515 cases in the 2008- 2010 report, but there is no reason to believe that they weren't included. Which would mean that of the 2,515 reported alleged cases of human trafficking in the 2008- 2010 report, 958 were from the previous report, so that there were only 1,557 additional cases to be investigated.

Only a small subset of all reported investigations (9%) had reached a point of review to determine that the case involved a confirmed human trafficking violation. Even fewer investigations yielded information about whether an arrest had been made, the case prosecuted, or the suspect convicted.

Subsequent tables and accompanying text summarize the number and characteristics of these alleged incidents. Characteristics of victims and suspects are provided as a subset of incidents in which investigations produced relevant information. (See *Methodology* for a description of key items and data reporting.)

Separate tables and text are also provided for confirmed human trafficking incidents. To be confirmed as human trafficking under HTRS, the case must have led to an arrest and been subsequently confirmed by law enforcement, or the victims must have had a *continued presence* requested on their behalf or have received an endorsement for a *t* or *u* Visa application.¹

Number of alleged and confirmed human trafficking incidents reported by federally funded task forces

- Between January 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008, task forces reported investigating 1,229 alleged incidents of human trafficking. About 78% of these incidents were still under investigation at the end of the reporting period. Investigations were completed and closed during the 21-month reporting period for the remaining 22%.
- Less than 10% of alleged human trafficking incidents reported by task forces were confirmed as human trafficking, 10% were pending confirmation, and 23% had been determined not to involve any human trafficking elements (table 2). The remaining cases (58%) lacked information on whether the alleged incident was a confirmed human trafficking case.
- Sex trafficking accounted for 83% of the 1,229 alleged incidents of human trafficking reported by task forces. The remaining incidents involved allegations of either labor trafficking (12%) or other/unknown forms of human trafficking (5%).

When the media reports that 83% of human trafficking cases involve sex trafficking, one should remember that this is 83% of ALLEGED human trafficking cases, **NOT CONFIRMED** CASES, and that even the number of alleged cases are a fraction of the number of claimed victims (hundreds of thousands per year) and then the number of confirmed cases are even fewer.

 $^{^{1}}$ Congress created the t and u non-immigrant Visa classifications with the passage of the TVPA, 2000. The t non-immigrant status was created to provide protection to victims of severe forms of human trafficking. The u non-immigrant status was designated for victims of certain crimes who had suffered mental or physical abuse, and who were willing to assist in the investigation of human trafficking activity.