



NORTH AFRICA RESEARCH GUIDE

Major Forms of Trafficking

- Migrant smuggling/ trafficking
- Trafficking/kidnapping for ransom
- Child Labor/ Child Labor Trafficking
- Child Soldiers
- Sexual Exploitation/ Sex Trafficking
- Organ Trafficking

Trafficking Routes

- Sub-Saharan Africa → Mediterranean
- Horn of Africa → Israel

Intergovernmental Organizations

- African Union
- Arab Maghreb Union
- League of Arab States
- Arab Trade Union Confederation

North African Countries

Morocco Tunisia

Algeria Libya

Often referred to as the "Maghreb"

Resources

Standard worldwide publications include the Global Slavery Index's section on the Middle East and North Africa and the US Department of State's 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report. Other reports include ECPAT's Regional Report on commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Middle East and North Africa. More specific country or region reports include but are certainly not limited to:

- INSAF and the Collective for the Eradication of the Work of "Petites Bonnes" has published quite a few resources and campaigns including "Pour un Maroc Sans Petites Bonnes: Modifier la Loi 19.12!"¹ and "Pour l'éradication du travail des « petites bonnes » au Maroc: Eléments de plaidoyer."²
- ECPAT's country report on Morocco.³
- Human Rights Watch report on child labor in Morocco.⁴
- "Baseline Study on Trafficking in Persons in Tunisia: Assessing the Scope and Manifestations."⁵
- Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Report on Libya.⁶
- Amnesty International's Report⁷ on Smuggling and Human Trafficking in Libya and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime's⁸ report on Smuggling and Human Trafficking in Libya.

Terms

Migrant Smuggling: While smuggling is inherently different from trafficking due to the participant's consent, it is useful to understand that many migrants who originally agree to be smuggled can be exploited and ultimately trafficked against their will during their journey.

Trafficking in Persons for Ransom: This refers to the smuggling, kidnapping, abduction, and torture of people in order to force relatives and loved ones to pay a ransom. Oftentimes even after the ransom money has been paid people are not freed, and more ransom money is demanded.

Petites Bonnes: "Petites bonnes" refer to young children, often girls, who engage in domestic work for households in Morocco. The practice is condemned by many human rights organizations, seeing as children are often unable to attend school and may be exploited or tricked into forced labor with little to no pay. Some of these children migrate from Sub-Saharan Africa in an effort to support their families.

Anti-Trafficking Legislation

All of the countries in North Africa have ratified or signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.⁹ Libya is the only country in North Africa that does not possess comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation outlawing all forms of human trafficking. The International Labor Organization's law database possesses some legislation under "forced labor,"¹⁰ and the Protection Project's law library provides Algeria's anti-trafficking legislation in PDF form.¹¹

Anti-Trafficking Organizations

There are several helpful organizations stationed in North Africa that fight trafficking in persons and the forms that are most prevalent in North Africa. Association INSAF fights child labor trafficking and exploitation in Morocco, most commonly "petites bonnes," or child domestic workers who are often subjected to labor exploitation and mistreatment. The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights just launched a campaign called "Briser le Tabou," which is fighting against human trafficking in Tunisia.¹² IOM and ECPAT also function in North Africa and have offices in several cities, including Rabat and Algiers.

2017 TIP Report¹³

Most of the countries in North Africa were classified as Tier 2 or Tier 2 Watch List states. Morocco and Tunisia appeared on the report as Tier 2, while Algeria was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List. Libya was classified as a special case, with the report stating that "accurate information on human trafficking continues to be difficult to obtain, in large part due to the withdrawal of most diplomatic missions, international organizations, and NGOs in 2014."

Endnotes

1. <http://www.citoyennete.ma/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170404-LCTE-Argumentaire-Loi-19.12-FR.pdf>
2. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CRC/Shared%20Documents/MAR/INT_CRC_NGO_MAR_17894_F.pdf
3. http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/A4A2011_MENA_MOROCCO-3.pdf
4. https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/morocco1112fr_sumandrecs_0.pdf
5. <http://reliefweb.int/report/tunisia/baseline-study-trafficking-persons-tunisia-assessing-scope-and-manifestations>
6. <https://www.childsoldiers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Libya-January-2017-Report-1.pdf>
7. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde19/1578/2015/en/>
8. <http://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/global-initiative-human-conveyor-belt-human-smuggling-in-libya-march-2017.pdf>
9. https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XVIII-12-a&chapter=18&clang=_en
10. http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.home?p_lang=en
11. <http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-anti-trafficking/>
12. <http://www.webmanagercenter.com/2017/06/05/407495/briser-le-tabou-lutter-contre-la-traite-des-etres-humains-theme-dune-conference-de-presse-le-7-juin/>
13. <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf>