Organ Trafficking: Expanding Views of Global Human Trafficking

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The Faces of Human Trafficking

- More “public” faces of trafficking
- Basic Questions:
  - What is organ trafficking?
  - Why is organ trafficking less discussed?
    - Less in the public eye?
- Where do we go from here?
  - Incidences
  - Specific cases
  - Possible solutions
The Status of the OT Problem

- Hard to get an exact figure:
  - About 10,000 transactions a year
  - Every 60 minutes, an organ is sold on the black market

- Global North vs. Global South
  - Similar to other forms of trafficking

- Kidney’s make up 75% of sales

- Trade on the rise
  - Garnering profits between $600 million and $1.2 billion/year
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz-laVSKkbM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz-laVSKkbM)
The International Kidney Trade

The Kidney World Order

- **Donor countries**
- **Recipient countries**

**Typical donor**
(ex. Philippines)

- Age: 28.9
- Gender: Male
- Annual income: $480

**Typical recipient**
(ex. Israel)

- Age: 48.1
- Gender: Male
- Annual income: $53,000

Source: Coalition for Organ Failure Solutions, Organs Watch, ESOT
After 1999, explosion in transplants

Body must stay intact after death

Killings of prisoners, dissidents

7,000 transplants from deceased, 90% prisoners

Discrepancies: Estimated 1,700 executions a year

Cornea harvesting case

Lesser known cases

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvAOOwvJMZs

Case Study: Cornea Harvesting in China
Reasons behind this Problem

- The “Haves” and the “Have Nots”
- Uneven international legislation
- Ethical concerns
- Domestic legislation
  - Donor lists
- Stem cell advances?
Possible Solutions

- New theoretical framework
- Stereotypes
  - Dr. Silke Meyer’s *Trafficking in Human Organs in Europe: A Myth or an Actual Threat?*
- International mandates
- Economic solutions
- Journalism changes
Conclusions

- Status of organ trafficking
  - Place amongst human trafficking discourse
- Future of thriving black market
- Human problem
- Overarching themes
- How to help?
  - Education
  - Economy
Sources


