

Trafficking of women and children in Southeast Asia : focus on Malaysia

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Abstrak

Trafficking in women and children for forced prostitution is one of the fastest growing transnational criminal activities in the world today. This illegal activity is considered the third largest source of profit for transnational organized crime, after drugs and weapons, generating billions of dollars annually. Although many countries are concerned about the problem, we know that not one of them has made much progress in stopping this trafficking in women and children. This paper presents the preliminary results obtained from an empirical study of the problem in Malaysia. Specifically, the study seeks to reveal the magnitude of the problem in Malaysia, and to determine the major sources and destinations of the women and children who are being trafficked. In addition, the efforts of the Malaysian government to curb the problem are being studied. The paper suggests that we should look at the problem from the perspective of the "human security" concept, which puts the security and well-being of the individuals of a country as a top priority, and thereby strengthens the country as a whole, including its security as a state.