

SOME PECULIARITIES OF WOMEN TRAFFIC FOR WHITE SLAVERY USE IN FIER DISTRICT

By Xhavit Shala

Introduction¹

Up to 1991, our country was considered to be as a geographical area –not endangered-by the traffic of human beings, although a country where this phenomenon is widespread surrounds it. This is explained by the fact that during that period the political system, which operates in Albania, did not permit the free movement of people.²

In 1991 powerful changes, which overran the country; led it toward the transformation of the political system into a pluralist system. The Albanian economy, which was undeveloped from the years'80, should adapt the free market economy.

The disbandment of the co-operatives and state farms, and their unplanned and uncontrolled privatization brought forth unemployment in villages and towns. So did the big industrial enterprises. Facing the market economy demands, they went bankrupt and entering the privatization process they curtailed lots of their employees.³

So, being unemployed, a lot of persons began to leave Albania in order to get employed in the neighbors countries. Now the persons, who undertook to send persons abroad against payment, began to distinguish themselves.

In this time the human beings traffic dawned. These “resourceful young men” had already established relations to their partners abroad. Some of these men used the small cars and even the barges for people transportation.⁴ Some of them were specialized in sending people by using forged papers through the border zone. Many of them were specialized in sending people through the border zone by accompanying n foot⁵ .

Up to the years '80 the towns which are included in the district of Fier: Lushnja, Ballsh, Patos had a powerful industry and too many workers especially in the oil sectors. The

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² Published in the fifth issue of the Scientific bulletin „Criminality, Public Order and Policing“ a publication of the Police Academy - June 2002

³ Vjetari Statistikor 1991-1999-Punesimi-Faqe 92-Botim INSTAT

⁴ Reseaux Albanais Capitaine Commandant Patrick Bourgeois –Brigade de Surveillance et de Recherches Gendarmerie, District de Bruxelles-faqe 7.

⁵ Po aty faqe 4

changes which took place in these districts, too brought forth a big number of unemployed who were looking for ways of illegal emigration.

Based on the data we have: it follows that the first cases of human being traffic, appeared during 1991, mostly for illegal emigration and less for women traffic for white slavery use and for the use of children as beggars many researches are made but there are no precise chippers for this year.

During the period of dictatorship police evidenced, mostly in towns, many immoral women who exercised their profesion of prostitution regardless of law. Many of them lived in the industrial towns such as: Fier, Berati, Elbasan. These women were the first who exerted this profesion in the neighbors countries, as Greece and Italia,⁶ accompanied by their wardens. The profits were fabulous for the mere fact that these were the favorite ones in west because they came from a country, which was not affected by AIDS.

This period belongs to the end of 1991 and 1992 for Fier district. Being a lucrative activity, it was necessary to find a supplying source of new girls.

The aim of this article is to analyze the dynamic, the peculiarities of women traffic for white slavery use in this district, the causes, to propound the strategy, and the ways of preventing and fighting against this heinous and enslaving traffic, to inform state institutions, the civil society, and non-governmental organizations for the defense of this traffic victims.

ISSUE NR. 1

The causes of women traffic for white slavery use in Fier district

The causes were of 2 kinds: **A. general**
B. specific

A. General causes

1. Economic factors. Poverty is one of the main causes of human beings traffic and in general of women traffic for white slavery use.⁷ The city of Fier, Ballsh and Lushnja were immediately affected by the market economy effects after the year 1991. Too many were unemployed, mostly the new age and in many cases, female. Women were mostly affected by unemployment, which overran Fier district after the year 1991. This happened in towns as well as in villages. The poverty, which Albanians went through, the wish for a rapid enrichment obliged people to search the kinds of work, which provided too much

⁶ Perpara viteve 90, ka patur shume raste qe ferma te tilla jane internuar ne zona te thella

⁷ Hyrje ne Raportin e Departamentit te Shtetit te SHBA mbi trafikimin e personave per vitin 2002-5 Qershor 2002-faqe 2.

money in a short period of time.⁸ One of these professions was women traffic for white slavery use.

2. Social factors. Being a city with a developed industry. Fier has also been a city with a heterogeneous population, so too many newcomers from different communities such as Cam, Kosovo, Mallakastrit, lived in Fier. This grew worse after the years 91-92 and was favored by the free and uncontrolled movement of people. These movements favor women traffic because people are not quite familiar with each other and have less responsibility toward the communities they represent. Another fact to be mentioned among the other social factors is the recourse to means of violence. Although they came from countries run by a system, where the equality between men and women was preached in schools; the recourse to means of violence in families was evident especially in rural areas. The change of the system brought divorces, which were not seen as a heresy anymore. The increase in number of the divorces, which came from unstudied marriages or engagements, brings forth the suitable contingent of women, to be trafficked.

3. Political factors. The political crisis, which has been present in Albania time and again, has helped the criminals who deal with women traffic not to be endangered in their activity.⁹ We can mention the political crisis during 91-92, the state collapse in 1997, the weakening of the institutions in 1998. The political chaos has also influenced indirectly on the development of human beings traffic and on women traffic for white slavery use. The lack trust on Albania amelioration, obliges people especially the youth to leave Albania and to go toward the profits. It's necessary to stress that a part of the trafficker who have been dealt with women traffic, have always aim to secure a political shield, depending on the circumstances, (left or right). This tactic has guaranteed the continuation of their business without having problems. Such cases are evidenced in Fier district.

B. Specific causes

1. The geographical position of Fier district as a connective bond between the other towns of Albania and the port city of Vlora, favors women traffic for white slavery use. In many cases the basic location of women traffic was the city of Fier. People who came from other towns settled in Fier until the right moment of leaving the country from Vlora. Staying for some days in Fier, the traffickers of other towns were housed and went into partnership with habitants of Fier and in some cases they sold the girls to them and so the habitants of Fier prepared their departure to Italy. Fier district has a long coastline which begin from the outlet of Shkumbin river, the outlet of Seman river, up to the outlet of Vjosa river. These three outlets are the suitable places for the departure. In the running year's lots of dinghies full of women and clandestines. The zone of Divjaka is also a suitable place for trafficking

2. Criminological factors have also influenced women traffic for white slavery use on being a lucrative business for years in Fier district. In the beginning members of different

⁸ Permes trafikut te femrave-Botim i Qendres Psiko-Sociale « Vatra »-Janar –Gusht 2000.Faqe 27

⁹ Hyrje ne Raportin e Departamentit te Shtetit te SHBA mbi trafikimin e personave per vitin 2002-5 Qershor 2002-faqe 2

communities of Fier population emigrated to west in search of a job. Aiming at a rapid enrichment, they joined different criminal groups in the countries they went and began to invest money in their native land. Gaining from the economy privatization process, they began to buy different object and to their money. They needed rapid profits in order to enlarge their investment .So they have been dealt with criminal activities such as drug traffic and women traffic, too.

3. The lack of legislation for combating human beings traffic in general and women traffic for white slavery use, in particular; let the authors of these penal deeds to continue freely their activity. It took 10 years (2001) to Albanian legislator to envisage women traffic as a penal code.-114th article of the penal deed.

4. The lack of police structures and their experience to face these new ways of criminal activities, permitted the flourishing of human traffic for years and years .The police structures began to train for combating this phenomena, only after 1998.The reliable police structures which combat this phenomena in Fier district, is established on September, 2001 and is called the “Regional office of anti-traffic war”

5. The corruption on high ciphers, **in police, prosecution, and courts** has been a factor which has stimulated women traffic for white slavery use .The trafficker shared apart of their profit from the criminal activity with police, prosecution, or courts. Foreign international institutions such as OSCE, and the American Department have notice this phenomenon. Policemen and police officers that had relations to women traffickers are arrested in the district of Fier. Prosecutors and judges were relieved of their posts.

THE 2ND ISSUE

Aspects of the dynamic of women traffic for white slavery use in Fier district.

185 women from Fier are trafficked for white slavery use. In comparison to other neighbor districts, we would have the following table¹⁰

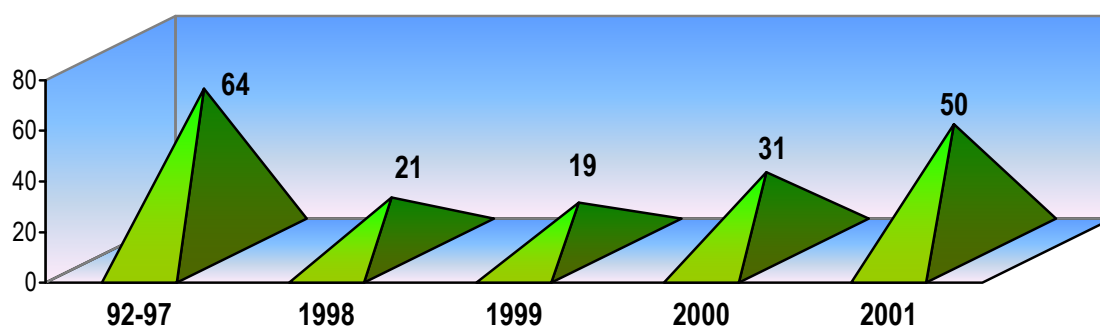
District	Fier	Vlore	Berat	Tirane	Durres	Elbasan	Korçe	Lezhe	Shkoder	Gjirokas	Diber	Kukes	Totali
Number viktims	185	112	49	170	67	96	18	31	9	30	41	2	810

I think that the given ciphers do not mirror the exact cipher of Albanian women who are trafficked for white slavery use. These ciphers indicate only the nr of women, about who the police have taken informations, reports, or have detained.

¹⁰ Te dhenat jane te zyres se perpunimit statistikor ne Drejtorine e policise Kriminele-Ministria e rendit Publik

(graphic Nr. 1)

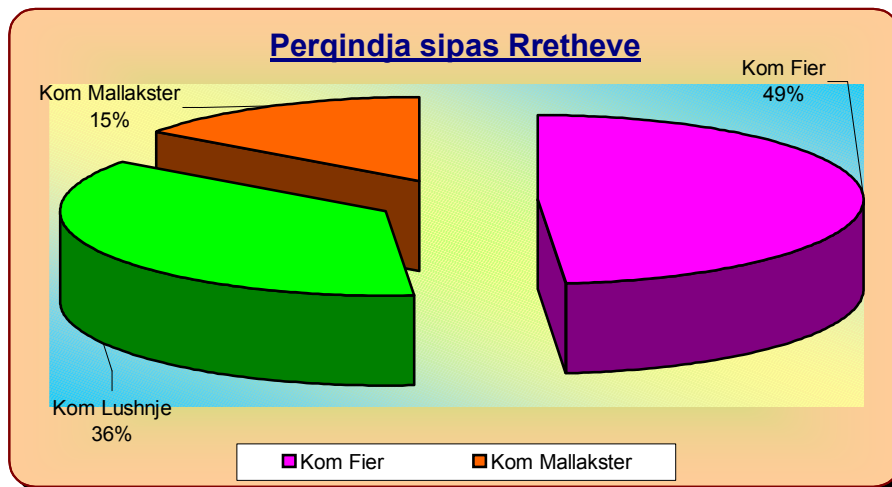
Femra te trafikuar ne qarkun e Fierit ne vitet 1992-2001



Analyzing this graphic, we verify that the nr of trafficked women for white slavery use during 98-2001 is greater than during 92-97. It has also been increasing from 1998 to 2001. This is explained by the fact that police attack power against this phenomena is increased. These reports are mostly made on police attacks against the authors who have trafficked these women.

If we analyze according to each town of Fier; 36% are from Lushnja, and 15% are from Mallakastra. As seen from the above graphic presentation, Fier has the great percentage of the victims. That's because the authors of these penal deed (72%) are from Fier¹¹.

¹¹ Te dhenat jane nxjerre ne Drejtorine e policise Qarkut Fier



The data of 57 victims are studied in order to bring into evidence, the peculiarities of women traffic for white slavery use, the wardens of who are being preceded in Fier district during January 1-December 6, 2001.

A. according to the administrative center where victims come from;

53% of the victims are from Fier district, and 47% are from other towns of Albania. This is explained by the fact that a part of victims and their wardens are obtained by Fier police on their way to Vlora. Traffickers from Fier have realized fictitious marriages to girls from other towns, and the moment they were being detained by foreign police exerting prostitution; they give their wardens address; so they are consigned (handed in to the police of Fier and are also interviewed by them

B. According to dwelling place

58% of the victims live in villages and 42% live in towns. The greatest nr of victims from villages comes as a consequence of the easiest recruitment because of the great unemployment and their standard of culture.

C. According to victim's civil status.

24% of victims are married. They have realized normal marriages and have gone west with their husbands. The latest have obliged them to prostitute in streets .76% are single. They have gone west being' in love 'or without informing their parents. They were obliged to prostitute there.

D. According to the time when they were trafficked.

According to the evidences of victims who were object of study; results that 47% of them are being trafficked in 2001. Police saved 22% or 38% of the victims.53% of them are trafficked from 1994 up to 2000.

2.1 Traffic according to Albanian female age groups

From 57 victims used as object study results that:

Age of victims	Number of victims	In percentage
13-20 vjeç	39	68.5%
21-25 vjeç	14	24.5%
26-31 vjeç	4	7%
Mbi 31 vjeç	S'ka	0%

Analyzing the table we reach the conclusion that the greatest nr of victims belongs to the new age, up to 20 years old, including the juveniles.

1. This happens for 3 reasons:

2. Girls are easily deceived in this age.

3. Being too young means that their white slavery use will grow longer than the other age groups. They may be used for 10-15 years. There are not many women over the thirties who prostitute

Being treated as a property (or goods); they are worthless so their wardens, release new girls, so new goods, aiming a higher profit.

According to analyses of these age groups affected by women traffic for white slavery use, we reach the conclusion that the preventive precautions against this phenomenon should be concentrated especially on teenagers and on 20 years girls.

2.2 The standard of education of women who are trafficked for white slavery use.

The greatest part or 88% of victims considered as object studies have only attended the compulsory education and 12% have attended the primary education.

Analyzing these data, we reach the conclusion that the low stand at of education is one of the factors, which makes girls to be easily trafficked for white slavery use. The standard of victims' education is always lower or equal to that of their wardens.

The recent years the standard of secondary schools especially in rural areas is heading towards a fall, that's why the nr of girls having the primary school standard is increasing. So this means that the nr of girls to be trafficked is increasing.

Investment on standard education improvement in these areas is a preventive work against women traffic phenomenon.

2.3 Ways of recruiting girls for white slavery traffic¹²

These are the ways of recruiting girls for white slavery use:

¹² Format dhe metodat e rekrutimi te permendura me poshte jane evidencuar nga ndjekja dhe hetimi i nje sere grupesh kriminale te goditura si dhe nga intervistat e zhvilluara me nje numer te konsiderueshem te viktimave te strehuara ne Qendren e Pritjes dhe Mbrojtjes se Viktimave te Trafikut Fier.

1. Press-gang or the violent recruitment.

They kidnap girls; rape them; depersonalize; oblige them to take drugs, put them to physical torture; until they accept to prostitute in order to provide income for their wardens.¹³

This way of trafficking girls has been widespread especially when the traffickers were not afraid of state and law.

The kidnapped girls for white slavery use according to years are as follows:

<i>Years</i>	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	total
Cases	-	-	19	32	40	7	36	15	21	10	180
Victims	-	-	19	32	40	7	39	15	21	11	184
Authors	-	-	19	32	40	7	62	24	40	15	239
Groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	5	12	3	36
Aut.in groups	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	14	31	8	95

By analyzing the table we reach the conclusion:

a. - Women kidnapping, for white slavery use has began after 1993, just in the right time when the market was hungry about the 'goods' which provided large and rapid incomes.

b. - 97 cases of women traffic for white slavery use and 97 victims are evidenced during 1994-1997. 82 cases and 86 victims are evidenced during 1998-2001. It is noticed that in the 2nd analyzing period this way of recruiting is decreasing in 12%. This is obvious year to year. If there are 36 cases in 1998, in 2001 there are only 10 cases. The nr of groups that deal with this activity is also diminishing. 16 groups of 42 members have operated in 1998, while during 2001 only 3 groups of 8 members have operated. Based on the classified data of 1997 where only 7 cases of kidnapping are registered in the entire Republic; the fall of this way of recruitment is greater in the 2nd analyzing period. This is related to the enforcement of state and the change of traffickers' tactics in order to have no problem with state, until they stand the goods to their destination.

c. - cases of women kidnapping for white slavery use and 9 victims are evidenced in Fier district during 1994-1997. 13 cases and 13 victims are evidenced during 1998-2001, so there's an increase of 44%. This clearly indicates the roughness of women traffickers from Fier and a great trust of the community on police.

2. The soft recruitment or recruitment by seducing girls.

¹³ . "I thuaj Jo"-Botim i Qendres Psiko-Sociale « Vatra »-faqe 11

This kind of recruitment displays in these ways:

a. - By engaging in **false marriages** legally. The new family should immediately go west because 'the bridegroom' risks losing his job. The moment they arrived there, the warden bridegroom says to his wife after some days, they ran out of money; she had to work but she couldn't find a job, so she had to prostitute. If she didn't accept, other girls used to convince her to prostitute together. If this is fruitless too, they take her documents and begin to use the ways of harsh recruitment.

b.-By establishing **love relations** to victims girls, by informing or without informing her parents and by promising employment in west or engagement or marriage until they reach the destination. 76% of victims considered as object studies are recruited this way, in Fier district during 2001.

c.-By deceiving them to **attend studies abroad**. After they sent them in west they obliged them to prostitute.

d. -By **promising marriage to foreign people**. Sometimes the 'bridegroom' comes in Albania or waits for his bride in the destination. After reaching the destination the victim is suppressed by psychic so physical violence to prostitute.

3. Recruitment by using the weak spots of victims or of their families.

Sometime the warden and victim or her family reaches a compromise to share the incomes of this activity. They draw a bead and recruit these girls:

1. Girls who come from very poor families or families that consists of too many children.
2. Girls who have problems in their families; have divorced parents or are orphaned.
3. Betrayed women or women abandoned by their husbands.

2.4 The means of realizing women traffic for white slavery use.

The means used for this traffic are singled out in conformity with the way of recruitment. If they use the harsh recruitment they don't cross the official borderline but they travel by dinghies to Italy or they go on foot when they bring foreign women from Monte Negro, Kosovo, Macedonia.

When they use the soft recruitment, these are the ways of sending them abroad:

1 *.They cross the border with forged papers.* In this case, after providing the forged papers, the trafficker sends the victim to Italy by ferryboat or by plane from Rinas. So they cross the official borderlines. There have also been cases when foreign women; Moldavian, Romanians, or Ukrainians who have illegally been supplied with Albanian passports; have crossed the border on forged papers. This way is used sometimes in Lushnja, Fier, and Mallakstra.

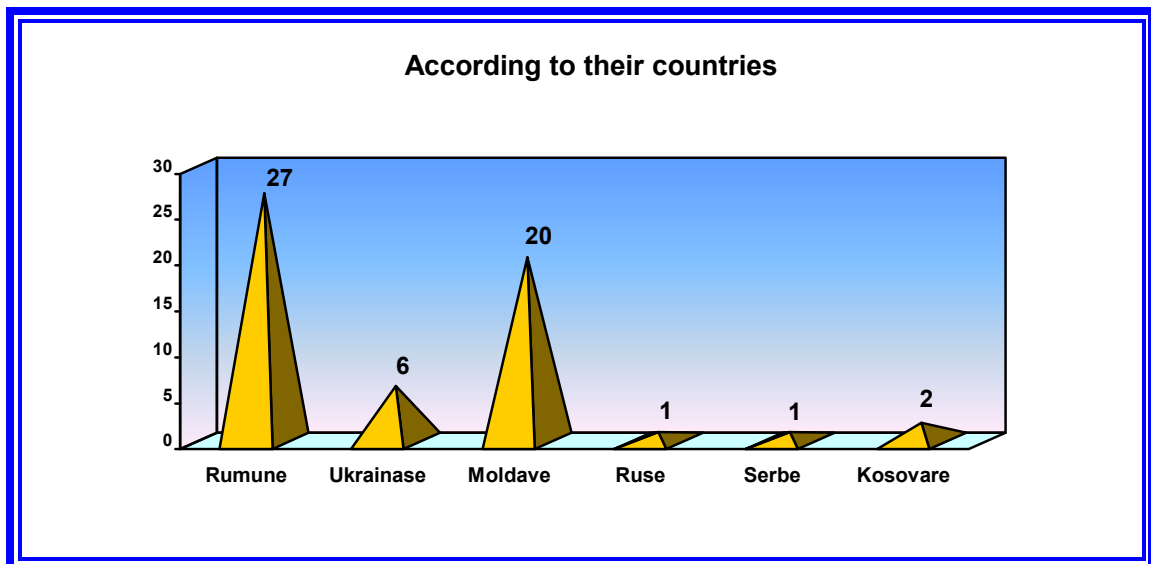
2. *Crossing the border with valid papers and with a valid visa.* This is another mean used in cases when the victim is supplied with the necessary papers, to travel quietly. This renders the marriage in Albania trustworthy.

THE THIRD ISSUE

Foreign women traffic

Foreign women traffic for white slavery use through Albanian territory began later than Albanian women traffic. In fact, there are no precise ciphers for the nr of foreign women trafficked through Albania. 90 foreign women are saved from traffic, by police during 2000. 46 of them have been Moldavian, 27 Romanians, 17 Bulgarians. Foreign women who are trafficked through Albania come from ex-communist countries, mostly from Moladavia, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria. 57 women in Fier, who were to be trafficked, were detained and identified by police. 27 of them were Rumanians, 20 Moldavians, a Russian, 2 Albanians from Kosovo and one from Serbia. There are no evidenced cases in Fier of foreign women traffic for white slavery use during 1992-1997 and 1998. 27 cases are evidenced in 1999 and 25 cases in 2000 and 5 cases in 2001.¹⁴

(graphic Nr. 2)



3.1 The ways foreign women enter Albania

a. - The realization of traffic by using airline through Rinas aeroport. Traffickers from origin countries realize their traffic by using forged papers up to Rinas. In many cases, policemen of Rinas commissariat who used to send women to Vlora and due Italy, were implicated in this traffic

¹⁴ Shifrat jane te Drejtorise Policise Qarkut Fier.

b. - *The realization of traffic by entering our territory from Kosovo.* Women who are to be trafficked come from their origin countries to Kosovo through international traffic network. They don't cross the Albanian official borderline but they come illegally in Kukes. They go from Kosovo to Macedonia and then enter again the Albanian territory through the border of Bulqiza, Librazhdi, and through Ohri Lake. They go from the Albanian territory to Italy and then to other western countries through Albanian women traffic networks. After the armament conflict, Kosovo is used as a transit place.

c. - *The realization of traffic by entering the Albanian territory through Yugoslavia*

Beside the human being traffic in general and especially of the Chinese ones, many women from ex-communist countries passed through this territory. They pass in the bases of the international traffic network in Serbian territories, or Malaysian, and through Shkodra Lake, they enter the Albanian territory. In many cases the Albanian traffickers go themselves in Monte Negro and buy foreign girls in order to traffic through Albanian territory. Their buying and selling is often organized the same way the livestock market is organized. The naked girls are valued according to their body qualities. Generally the price of the goods 'girl' who enter the Albanian territory through Monte Negro reaches up to 2000 DM.

d. - *The realization of traffic entering our territory through ex-Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.*

Women, who are to be trafficked, come to Macedonia from East Europe directly or by Turkey-Bulgary-Macedonian line. After staying some days, or months in Macedonia, they enter the Albanian territory through the zones of Korca, Pogradec, Librazhd, and Bulqiza. They pass from Albanian territories to Italy and then to other countries, through Albanians networks. During 1999-2000 Macedonian motels and hotels near the border, especially the ones owned by Albanian proprietress from Veleshta, Struga, Oher, were overfilled with girls from ex-communist countries. The greatest parts of them were from Moldavia. After being used in these motels for months, they crossed the Albanian territory in the proper moment, aiming at going through Italy. During the summer of 2000, 1500 foreign women from ex-communist countries 'employed' in hotels and motels were in Macedonia waiting to 'land' in Albania. In some cases, Albanians traffickers used to go in Macedonia to buy girls and crossed illegally the border to Albania and sent the girls due Vlora.

e. - *The realization of traffic, entering the Albanian territory through Greece.*

The trafficked girls, who came through Greece, have been stayed in this country. Albanian traffickers, who bring them in Albania aiming to send them in Italy, or other Western countries, where the profits of this activity are larger, trafficked them. We should stress that state collapse in April-March 1997, brought forth the armament of the population.¹⁵¹³⁾ Many wardens were killed as a consequence of the revenge of trafficked girls families, or were killed by members of other groups, which exerted the same criminal activity. Being under these conditions, many traffickers preferred to use 'imported goods' foreign women in order to avoid revenge. Police officials of other countries where the Albanians traffickers exerted their activity, also verified this. On June 28, 2002 Boudoir Dernicourt,

¹⁵ . Prof.Dr Ismet Elezi-« Kriminaliteti si Fenomen shoqëror ;shkaqet dhe parandalimi i tijë ».Buletini Nr.2 vit 2002,faqe 12.Botim i Akademise se Policise « Arben Zylyftari ».

the commissar of one of police stations in Brussels, is expressed before “Le soir”¹⁶ a Belgian daily paper that: Based on our information, Albanians had conflicts in Albania, so few Albanian women prostitute in Brussels’. Albanians are stickled to a determined law. They search girls in other East countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Moldavia, Lituany and Bulgaria.

3.2 The way of recruiting foreign women

The main ways of recruiting foreign women are:

a. - Deceit for a job. Gaining advantage from unemployment in East countries and the poverty in Moldavia, international will organized networks of traffic for white slaver use, recruited girls through phantom employment firms; through newspapers job announcements and send them west through the above- mentioned itineraries

b. - Deceit for attending studies west. This also attends the same way as above-mentioned, but the promise is made for a scholarship in west.

c. - The harsh recruitment or press-gang. This way of recruiting is used in some cases with foreign women. Criminal powerful groups from these traffic origin countries, kidnaps girls by trapping them and then transport them according to the determined itineraries up to Albania. Albanian police have detained women, recruited this way. They are restituted back to their families.

According to the study made by ‘vatra e gruas shqiptare’ society during 2000-2001 resulted that 89% of the 57 interviewed foreign women are recruited, being deceived for a job in west, while 10% were promised to attend the studies in west.¹⁷

FORTH ISSUE

Criminal groups features

238 crime authors are implicated in human beings traffic, in the district of Fier, during the period we are analysing. Some of them had the operated individually. The greatest part had operated in groups.

The implicated authors and groups which have operated are divided according to years as hereunder follows¹⁸:

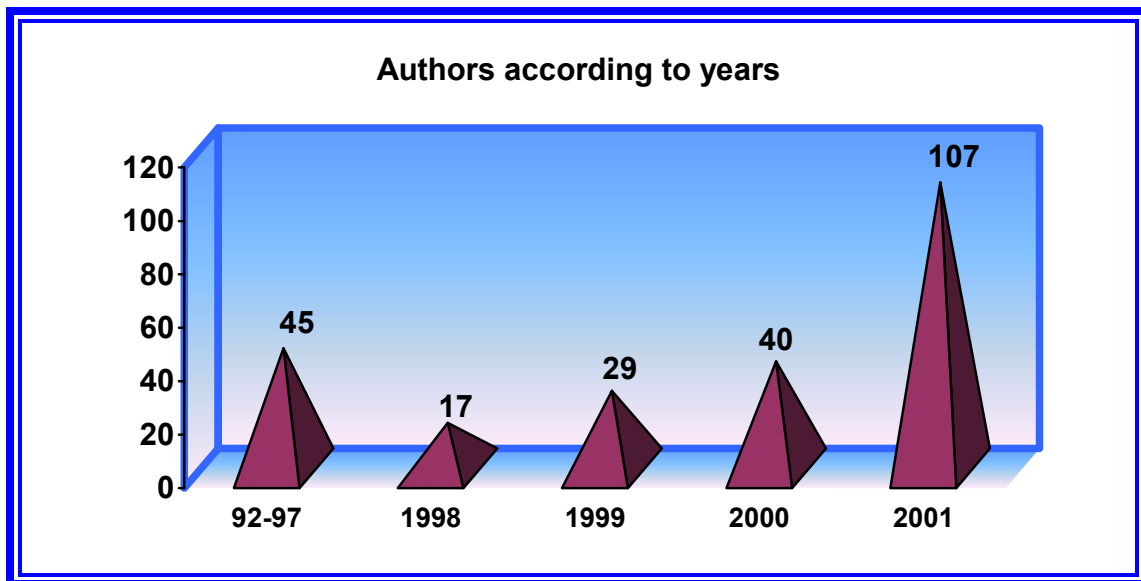
Vitet	Autore	Grupe kriminale
1992-1997	45	7
1998	17	1
1999	29	5
2000	40	6
2001	107	15
Totali	238	34

¹⁶ « Le soir »-28.6.2002-Bruksel.

¹⁷ . “I thuj Jo”-Botim i Qendres Psiko-Sociale « Vatra »-faqe 14

¹⁸ Te dhenat jane nxjerre ne Drejtorine e Policise qarkut Fier

(graphic Nr. 3)



If we see the graphic presentation of traffic authors for white slavery use in Fier district and the nr of criminal groups, which have operated, we'll notice that this is increasing every year. Police have evidenced traffic authors and the groups they had been operated in, based on the penal proceeding against them. This means that the increase of graph presentation is explained by the increase of police structures attacks against this phenomenon.

If we analyze authors divisions according to towns we'll notice that the greatest percentages of authors (72%) are from Fier. Then comes Mallakastra (17%) of authors, and Lushnja (11%) of them. Fier also constitutes the greatest nr of trafficked women for white slavery use in west. This indicates the diffusion of this phenomenon in Fier.

The data of 100 traffickers who were being preceded; are considered as object of study in this district during January 1-December 6, 2001, in order to understand better the peculiarities of women traffic for white slavery use. 50 authors have been arrested while the other part is declared wanted.

A . According to their place of living. 61% of these authors live in towns, while 39% live in villages. In comparison to the victims account, it results that the greatest nr of victims (58%) lives in villages. Village is the place where girls can be recruited and trafficked for white slavery use.

b . According to their civil status. 47% of the authors are married while 53% of them are single. A part of married authors have arranged fictitious marriages to victims they have recruited for white slavery use. Some of them have wives and children at home, but they deceive their victims and make them believe that they will marry them.

c . - According to authors' juridical status. It results that 92% of authors are not penalty proceeded and 8% of them have been sentenced before for different penal deeds. It is noticed that the greatest parts have not been sentenced before and were out of police attention. Not being sentenced before provided facilities for women recruitment by means of deceit or but arrangement of fictitious marriages. The greatest part of victims' families is aware of their daughter's destiny. They also know the persons who have trafficked them. There are no legal possibilities in Albania for proceeding against the authors by means of victims' reports or their families report. This would increase the indicators of police attacks against these criminal activities.

d . According to the standart of education. 90% of the authors have only attended elementary school, 9% have attended the primary school and only 1% has attended the higher education. If we compare the victims's standart of education we'll notice that generally the authors's standart of education is higher or equal to their victims's standart of education.

e. The age of authors. The percentage of crime authors in comparison to the total according to age groups:

- 5% of authors belong to 20 years old boys
- 51% of them belong to 21-30 years old
- 32% of them belong to 31-40 years old
- 12% of authors belong to over 41 years old

It is noticed that 83% of the total nr of authors belong to 21-40 years old

f. According to geographical position. There's a different nr for victims. 68.5% of them were 13-20 years old. 68% of total nr of group authors, who were considered as object of study, is habitants of Fier district and 32% are habitants of other districts of Albania. The fact that a part of the authors are from other towns of Albania is explained by the traffickers' tactic, used to recruit girls from areas where they are not recognized. A part of these authors are detained from Fier police services while they were trafficking women to Vlora, aiming at sending them to Italy.

4.1 The relation to other criminal organizations

Criminal organizations that have an international influence generally run their women traffic from the origin countries to the destination. In these organizations are included traffickers from all over the countries, where girls cross the border in transit. Traffickers from origin countries are more important than those of destination. They take the greatest part 'lion part' of this traffic incomes. Criminal organizations operate in origins countries and they select girls, recruit them for trafficking, arrange their movements by providing them with papers according to the itinerary they have to follow and they have also determined the base of their stay. These traffickers establish secure relations to the traffickers of transit countries, including our country. After the girls' intrusion in our

territory, the Albanian traffickers realize their movement toward Albanian coast stations. This is the starting point to Italy.¹⁹

Although the Albanian traffickers are part of an international network; they generally prefer not only to make profits as the transporter of these goods but as being the owner of it. That's why they buy the girls by paying in cash and then sell them to some traffickers in Albanian territory or they supply their criminal organizations directly with fresh 'goods' in west. Albanian criminal groups who wait for these girls and use them in west, are generally organized according to cities they come from ex; Fierak, Beratas, Peqinas, Laciane, etc.

These clans have their own influence areas and don't have hierarchy with each other. Groups from Fier operate in Milano and in other cities in the north of Italy. Recently they have become powerful in Belgium and England. Albanian women traffic groups deal also with stolen cars traffic, forged papers and the trade of arms.

FIFTH ISSUE

Prevention and war against women traffic for white slavery use

Based on the whole study of women traffic phenomenon in Fier district, we reached the conclusion that this phenomenon is a social wound of the society, so police should not be the only one to fight against this phenomenon.

That's why a regional conference with subject 'for the war against human beings traffic and especially women traffic for white slavery use' was held on September 11, 2001. The aim of this activity was to inform the community, media, non-governmental organizations and other state organizations such as: their local authorities, to attack this phenomenon. Police work for the war against this phenomenon was concentrated on 2 main directions which were pursued abreast:

- a- On the function of prevention of women traffic for white slavery use
- b- In the direction of police attack' reinforcement toward elements which develop this criminal activity.

a-On the function of this phenomenon prevention

On the function of the drafted regional strategy; firstly was aimed at the information of community on this Albanian society wound. 16 sessions according to communes municipalities and secondary schools were held for this reason. The aim of this session was to give necessary information on women traffic; on the ways of recruitment, ways and legal base for the attack against this activity.

¹⁹ Reseaux Albanais-Capitaine-Commandant Patrick Bourgeois –Brigade de Surveillance et de Recherches-Gendarmerie, District de Bruxelles-faqe 9

This enabled the decrease in nr of reports in police, of the cases of women traffic for white slavery use; it also enhanced police authority over community. The collaboration of non-governmental organizations of Fier district that were interested in fighting against this phenomenon and in victims 'treatment, that grew longer. In collaboration to non-governmental organizations an informing campaign was held, folders were prepared and were distributed in the countries affected by this phenomenon.

In collaboration to local structures, communes 'leaders, villages 'leaders (especially those from affected areas) aimed at: identifying the trafficked girls for white slavery use; at getting the necessary information for their location, for the persons who trafficked them; to stimulate their families to contact police. In collaboration to media, precautions were taken to mirror the police campaign in media, in order to inform the community. Police established communication with IOM and other organizations for foreign women, victims of traffic and who could escape the traffic network, in order to accomplish the legal procedures and to back them home. Police effectives should treat these girls as victims and not as criminals.

b. In the function of enhancing the attack power on individuals who dealt with this criminal activity

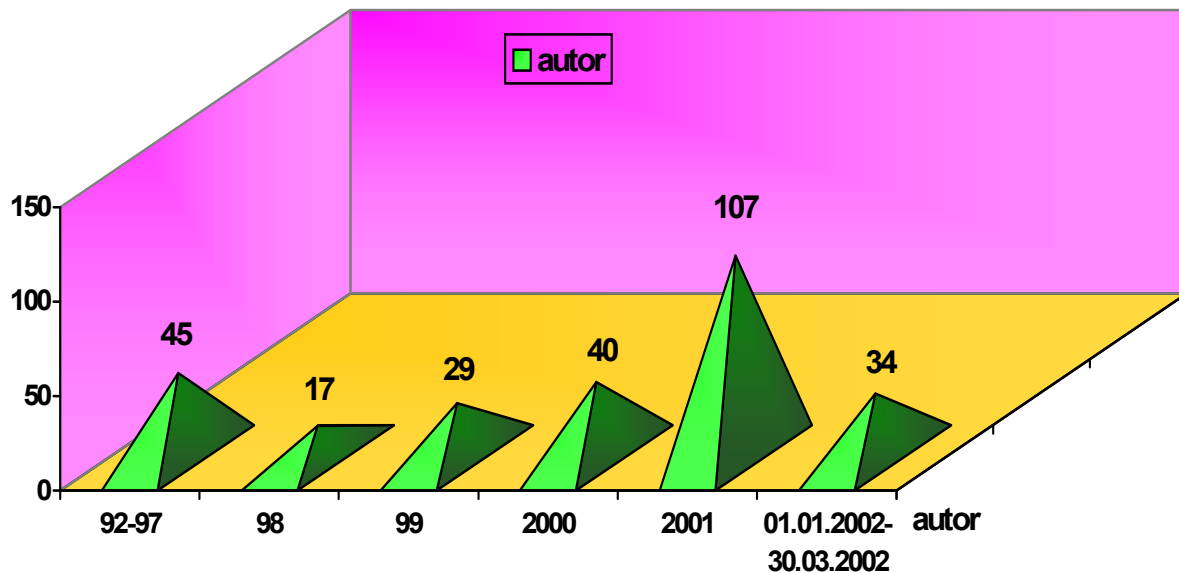
Criminal police sectors and Public Order police began to evidence in every village, commune and town the cases of women traffic for white slavery use, their actual position, if there has been report on them before, families 'pretences, the warden who trafficked them, the countries they were living. Work arrangement for laying the blame on responsible persons who dealt with this actual activity began. Police services that had as a

priority this traffic attack were reorganized having special precautions plans. Let outs of Vjosa River, Seman River, and Divjaka zone were in full control of border services.

The collaboration with prosecution grew longer and time and again common analyses were made. Communication with police stations that had border passages in their territory enabled the return to Fier of girls who were traffic 'victims. After being detained by west countries police they were repatriated. A skillfully and well choose group of specialists immediately interviewed these girls.

The results were immediate. On September 11, only 26 authors were penalized, while from the beginning of the new strategy the nr of penalized authors on December 2002 reached up to 107 and by the end of 1st quarter of 2002 it reached in 34.

(graphic Nr. 4).



On the new strategy implementation of the war against human beings traffic, girls' victims of this traffic who were repatriated by west countries police and were detained when they were trafficked from Vlora or were detained by the operative work organized by regional office of war against traffic and by criminal police, were accompanied to police executive boards of Fier.

Based on:

- The total lack of living conditions for the accommodation of Albanian and foreign citizens who are traffic victims.
- Based on the lack of legal acts for the protection of witnesses in Albania.
- Based on the indispensability to secure evidences in court for guaranteeing the witnesses' protection and the further progress of juridical process against wardens of traffic victims.

Based on the above reasons "The center of accommodation and protection of victims" was projected and built in the surrounding of police executive borders in Fier districts. The reason that it was built inside the police territory was the maximal security for victims' lives. If it had built in other surroundings, lots of means and forces would have been necessary, things that we couldn't secure for the moment. A fund of 12000 \$ was needed to built this center. To secure such a fund an informing campaign was held among the community and businessmen from Fier. We were ready to invest this project. This indicated the community concern and responsibility to support police in its war against women traffic for white slavery use. This center helped police' work in 2 directions:

- They created normal conditions for traffic victims' accommodation up to the end of legal procedures and the interview with traffic' victims.
- They secured girls' lives victims of human being traffic, who accepted to report their wardens. Girls, were accommodated there, up to the moment that their words were considered as evidences before the court.
- Foreign women, victims of traffic were accommodated up to the end of procedures for their repatriating.

An agreement with 2 non-governmental organizations of Fier was signed up for this center administration and these non-governmental organizations that undertook their

food' treatment, medical assistance, juridical psychology. Each traffic 'victim who would stay in this center should sign up a written statement in which she required: sheltering, assistance, and protection. For the center operation' procedures contacts and consistent consultations are made with ombudsman, OSCE, and different organizations, which deal with human rights.

Up to the end of first quarter of 2002, we gathered 30 testimonies of traffic victims before the court, by using the conditions that this center offered us. There was not a case of witness life 'impingement and there was not a case of human rights violation.

The establishment of this center in Fier (as the first experience) draws the attention of different institutions that were interested in war against women traffic for white slavery use. Representatives of FBI who had visited this center are interested in using it as a pilot project entire the country. Mandoi, the vice chief of Italian antimafia, compared the experience of Fier center with the Italian experience of witness protection as the implement of the convention on witnesses' protection²⁰. In the latest account of State Department of United States-, the classification of Albania from the 3rd place to the 2nd one for the war against traffics is mentioned. The establishment of the Center in Fier was also estimated.²¹

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Women traffic for white slavery use is already a wound of the Albanian society. We are not only a transit country but also an origin country for women traffic for white slavery use. This wound could be healed only with the help of police intervention. Collaboration between structures such as: local authority, non-governmental organizations, prosecutions, and courts, is suggested. In the national antitraffic Strategy function, the drafting of regional detailed strategies for the prevention and attack of women traffic' phenomenon is recommended.

2. Women traffic for white slavery use turns the juvenile girls and those up to 20 years old into victims. We recommend finding the ways and methods to inform these age groups about this phenomenon. This could also be realized in other ways and by means of syllabus in the secondary schools.

3. The traffickers who recruit girls through deceit accomplish their penal deed, when girls reach their destination and are obliged to prostitute. Under these conditions the help of homologous structures of the country where he runs his activity is necessary in order to attack this activity. So we recommend enhancing collaboration with countries of human

²⁰ Referat i mbajtur nga zv.shefi i animafias italiane Mandoi ne seminarin trajnues te prokuroreve shqiptar,zhvilluar ne Prokurorine e Pergjitheshme me date 25 Mars 2002.Vleresimi qe ai i beri « Qendres se pritjes dhe mbrojtjes se viktimave te trafikut » Fier,eshte publikuan ne median shqiptare me date 25 dhe 26 Mars 2002.

²¹ Raport i Departamentit te Shtetit te Shteteve te Bashkuara te Amerikes per trafikun e qenieve njerezore,publikuar ne Tirane me date 5 Qershor 2002.

traffic' destinations, in order to enable their sentence with incontestable evidences. To find the necessary procedures that these countries' police should not be satisfied with the girls' repatriating in Albania by simple signing that they were detained without documents but the girls should be followed by special files of evidences for their wardens; files that police of 'destination' countries possess but prefer to take them in their archives. These countries should prove that they support Albania in war against traffic. It doesn't mean to help Albania but to undertake the bilateral responsibility on this traffic attack.

4. No law is enacted in Albania for witnesses' protection. The drafting of such a law for a 2 years -period is envisaged in the National Antitrafficking Strategy. Actually, rapid results are required for the war against traffics, and protective precautions should be taken toward witnesses in order to reach these results. If a law for their protection is immediately approved, it needs time to be put into execution, because it requires an economic bill. Under these conditions we recommend to find intermediate ways with low costs for protecting witnesses and we also suggest using 'the center of accommodation and protection of traffic victims' in Fier as a pilot project in other towns, too.

5. Indispensable is the rehabilitation of women who are victims of traffic. If they don't enter the process of rehabilitation, there exists the possibility of their rapid recycling in traffic network. We suggest the collaboration of state structures, local authorities, non-governmental organizations to draft, to realize these programs and for the rehabilitation of women who are traffic' victims for white slavery use.

6. It is noticed that women traffic for white slavery use from countries of East Europe has diminished, citizens who are given the possibility to move freely in countries such as Bulgaria and Romania. The Albanian war against human beings' traffic should be accompanied by facilities for providing people with visa to European countries and for signing up Shengen agreement. Providing facilities would render difficult the work of human beings traffickers.