

## **Human Trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa Region**

**By Schuyler Dudley**

The Middle East and North Africa region is not the first area to come to mind when discussing human trafficking in the world. Yet this region certainly has human trafficking problems. To clarify, the geographic region referred to in this essay, the Middle East, extends as far west as Mauritania, as far south as Sudan, as far east as Oman, and as far north as Syria. This region is also known as MENA (Middle East and North Africa), but will be referred to as the Middle East in this essay. Discrepancies in defining the Middle East, as well as inaccurate information, can make looking for facts and information on human trafficking in this region frustrating. This difficulty is particularly pronounced because some Middle Eastern laws and cultures do not recognize certain forms of human trafficking as being, in fact, trafficking. Because of this, victims of trafficking are often not protected in the Middle East. Instead, victims of human trafficking are often punished because they are viewed as illegal immigrants. Forms of human trafficking in the Middle East include domestic servitude and forced labor, child trafficking for camel jockeys, and sex trafficking.

### **Human Trafficking as Slavery**

Human trafficking is considered a contemporary form of slavery. Slavery has historical roots in the Middle East, especially in the region bordering African states. One Middle Eastern state that has seen extensive slave trading, both historically and in the present day, is Sudan where the African non-Muslim population has been the target of mainly Arab slave traders. This slave trade has surged again in recent years due to the escalating attempts by the Arab government to dominate their southern, non-Muslim population. The use of human trafficking as a tool to control an entire population at odds with the Sudanese government is a key issue when examining Sudan.

### **Redeeming Slaves**

A controversial issue when dealing with human trafficking and slavery in the Middle East and around the world is slave “redemption.” Since it is difficult to find ways of releasing slaves from their buyers without more violence and turmoil, some organizations have resorted to buying slaves for their freedom. Many advocates of ending the slave trade claim that buying slaves from their owners encourages the demand for slaves. Therefore, it is argued that redeeming slaves actually contributes to the problem, and does not alleviate it. This is an incredibly difficult controversy because it weighs the lives of current victims of human trafficking with the hope that not feeding the demand will save people from becoming victims of trafficking in the near future.

### **Migrant Workers**

One of the largest human trafficking problems in the Middle East is the trafficking of migrant workers. Many migrant people, mainly from Asian states, are tricked into coming to the Middle East; they then find themselves in a forced labor situation or working for very low wages. This tragic phenomenon is especially prevalent in the oil-rich Gulf States of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the

United Arab Emirates (UAE). In addition, these workers may be held to pay off their debt, which accumulates from the exorbitant costs of travel and housing. Organizations like the International Labor Organization strongly warn migrating workers about fraudulent schemes that promise workers transportation and work in another state. Although the Gulf States have one of the highest populations of migrant workers in the world, certainly not all of them are victims of human trafficking. Nevertheless, migrant workers going to the Middle East should be aware of the problem.

### **Child Camel Jockeys**

The majority of migrant workers in the Middle East are men and women. However, children, are also trafficked to the Middle East, but for a different reason. Camel racing in the Middle East is a major sport, similar to horse racing in the United States. This sport is especially popular in the Gulf States. Because camel owners want a small jockey so that as little weight as possible will be on the camel, children are often trafficked in from other states such as Pakistan to race camels. Child jockeys are often malnourished so they maintain low weight. In addition, the children can also be hurt badly from falling from the camels. Strides have been made in abolishing this practice, such as the invention of robot jockeys to replace children, in addition to laws that raise the legal age of jockeys to fifteen or eighteen years. However, the practice still persists.

### **Sex Trafficking**

Although human trafficking for sexual exploitation does occur in the Middle East, it is difficult to find resources on this aspect of trafficking. In most Arab states, sex trafficking is not explicitly prohibited. As an example, Mohamed Mattar points out that in many Middle Eastern states, temporary marriage is permitted in which case the woman has few rights and the husband decides when the marriage ends. Temporary marriage is thought to be a way to legalize prostitution. In addition, Arab culture is sensitive to this issue, which makes researching and gathering information difficult. On the other hand, Mattar also notes that Iraq's new constitution includes an article specifically prohibiting the trafficking of women and children for the sex trade, the first Arab state to do so. This may be a promising, although perhaps not completely genuine, first step toward recognizing and acting against sex trafficking. Certain states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also putting pressure on Middle Eastern states to implement more explicit laws in human trafficking in general. However, even when there are laws against sex trafficking, the laws are not respected or enforced. In Israel, there are laws against sex trafficking, yet the Israeli government and law enforcement agencies have largely neglected to enforce these laws. Therefore, not only legislating laws, but also enforcing laws is important for change in sex trafficking in the Middle East.

### **International Laws and Organizations**

Today, there are many international laws and organizations working to prevent and stop human trafficking, and to hold traffickers accountable. International laws and treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and organizations such as the United Nations, International Labor Organization, and International Organization for Migration are all working to stem human trafficking in the Middle East and around

the world. Some Middle Eastern governments are doing their part to stop this problem, while other states are not doing anything to prevent human trafficking. Reports like the United States Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) expose states that are not making enough of an effort to end human trafficking. Through the many laws and documents, one can see that the international community is not taking the human trafficking problem lightly.

## Conclusion

The international community is beginning to call upon the states of the world to take the problem of human trafficking more seriously. The Middle East is working towards this end, although at a slower pace than some would like. The Middle East is a region rich in culture, language and religion. However, its history of slavery and diverse legal systems has not yet enabled human trafficking to be defined as the international community sees it. In the near future, hopefully Middle Eastern states will be more proactive in stemming human trafficking.

## Annotations

“Anti-Slavery.” 2008. [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org).

Annotation: The Anti-Slavery organization and website work through various means to end slavery on an international basis. Based out of London, the group works to raise awareness, educate, lobby governments, and help in supporting victims of human trafficking and slavery. Their magazine, *Reporter*, further works to inform and educate. Information on human trafficking in the Middle East can be found through the site’s search function. This includes information published by the media, Anti-Slavery write-ups, and working papers on the region.

Arrowsmith, Martin. 2004. “Slave Redemption Has a Role in Combating Slavery in Sudan.” In *Slavery Today*. Edited by A. Ojeda. Farmington Hills: Greenhaven Press. 45-48.

Annotation: This chapter discusses the controversial issue surrounding the redemption of slaves, or buying slaves their freedom. Arrowsmith goes over the history of redeeming slaves, as well as the use of redemption as an act of charity, instead of being associated with a crime. The author concludes that redeeming slaves may be necessary to free them, but only when all other alternatives have been tried and have failed. Other options, the author suggests, are working with the governments to enforce their laws against slavery, to work with organizations that raid slave workplaces, and to educate the public.

Bernal, Victoria. 1999. “Migration, Modernity and Islam in Rural Sudan.” *Middle East Report* MER 211.

Annotation: It is common for people from rural Sudan to migrate to other Middle Eastern states, especially Saudi Arabia, in order to make money. In rural Sudan, these migrants are

known as being wealthy and are celebrated in their villages. Islam has played a new role in these villages, at the same time that other factors have transformed their customs, beliefs and the way that they receive goods. However, in the states where migrants work, they are not treated in the same manner as natives. This article mainly shows the positive aspects about worker migration to other Middle Eastern states, but it does hint at the difficulties and unequal treatment migrants face abroad.

Bostom, Andrew G., ed. 2005. The Legacy of Jihad: Islamic Holy War and the Fate of Non-Muslims. Amherst: Prometheus Books.

Annotation: Because of the close proximity between the Middle East and Africa, but the many differences in culture and beliefs, it is inevitable that tension and conflicts arise on occasion. This lengthy compilation of chapters informs the reader of most aspects of *jihad* and how Muslims interact with non-Muslims, according to their religion. The main sections of the book are on the historical and religious roots of *jihad* and how it is interpreted. Part 7 is devoted to how *jihad* influences slavery. Many Arab Muslims have been on the slave trading side, exploiting their African, non-Muslim neighbors. This book is a thorough look at one aspect of this situation.

Calandruccio, Giuseppe. 2005. "A review of recent research on human trafficking in the Middle East." *International Migration* 43 (1):267-299.

Annotation: This article deeply discusses the different forms of human trafficking in the Middle East and provides information on the literature surrounding this issue. Calandruccio notes the difficulty in getting information on human trafficking in the Middle East because the information is often not from first-hand sources. A notable trend the author discusses is the growing number of female migrant workers and how they are often exploited into the sex trade in the Gulf States, especially women from Russia and Eastern Europe. This article is helpful in understanding the basic issues of human trafficking in the Middle East and reviews useful literature on the subject as well as discusses what is missing from this literature.

Coalition against Trafficking of Women. 2008. [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org).

Annotation: This international organization works through various mechanisms to stop sexual exploitation of women and girls. Trafficking of women and girls in the Middle East is not the focus of this organization, but information on this region can easily be accessed through the website's regional focuses and by searching the site. The website is user-friendly and has many resources, including navigation by region and a resource library to find articles and other information on the exploitation of women and girls. This is an advocacy organization that works with other human rights groups to attempt to influence decisions regarding women trafficking, inform the public, and to help quell the source and demand for trafficking.

Coluccello, Salvatore and Simon Massey. 2007. "Out of Africa: The Human Trade between Libya and Lampedusa." *Trends in Organized Crime* 10 (4):77-90.

Annotation: This article is about human smuggling and illegal immigration between Libya and Italy. Because of Libya's proximity to Europe through Italy, immigrants from many states in northern Africa go to Libya to seek passage to Europe. Networks and organizations have been set up in Libya to get illegal immigrants across to Italy. However, these services often are expensive and turn into slave-like conditions for migrants. The article also refers to the effort on Italy's part to reduce the amount of illegal immigrants in Italy. The article is very helpful for looking further into the migration issue in the Middle East, especially migration to Europe as opposed to the Gulf States.

Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. 2007. U.S. Department of State.  
[www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007](http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007).

Annotation: The Country Reports on Human Rights are not specific to human trafficking, but rather report on human rights in general in each state. However, this report does include human trafficking, more in depth in some state than in others, depending on how much of a problem trafficking is in a particular state. The reports on each individual state are thorough and very informative, giving the reader a good sense of the situation in each state. This web page is a good starting point for researching the extent of human trafficking in a particular state in the Middle East as well as their human rights situation in general.

Degorge, Barbara. 2006. "Modern Day Slavery in the United Arab Emirates." *European Legacy* 11 (6):657-666.

Annotation: This article examines different forms of slavery in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The author begins with a definition of slavery and gives a brief history of slavery. Degorge looks at three different forms of human trafficking in the UAE: children used as camel jockeys, women trafficked for sexual exploitation, and migrant workers who become slaves. Degorge links human trafficking to globalization, but also notes that globalization and wealthy countries will ultimately help stem the flow of those trafficked. While the author leaves the reader with a good idea of the problem, she fails to adequately suggest how steps towards fixing the problem can be implemented.

Eibner, John. 2005. "My Career Redeeming Slaves." In *The Legacy of Jihad: Islamic Holy War and the Fate of Non-Muslims*. Edited by A. G. Bostom. Amherst: Prometheus Books. 573-588.

Annotation: This chapter is written by a member of Christian Solidarity International (CSI) that buys slaves to liberate them in Sudan. Accused of supplying the demand for slaves, Eibner says the allowing of a slave trade is what should be considered most intolerable. The author gives an account of how his organization releases slaves then tells a few short stories of the freed slaves' experiences. Finally, Eibner examines the various mechanisms that are being used to combat slavery, from international law to the actions of the United States

Congress. This is a good, concise chapter written from one side of the controversy of buying slaves their freedom.

“Former Camel Jockeys Reclaiming Their Lost Childhood.” UNICEF. 2006.  
[www.unicef.org/infobycountry/pakistan\\_30655.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/pakistan_30655.html).

Annotation: Because the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is concerned about children all over the world, UNICEF’s website enables a researcher to find information on trafficking of children in the Middle East to become camel jockeys. This article in particular describes the plight of former child jockeys and how the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government, which has recently banned child jockeys in camel racing, is working to return these former jockeys. Even though the UNICEF website is not specifically designed for child trafficking in the Middle East, it is useful in finding documents, articles, and other resources on this subject.

Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings. 2006. Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons. New York: United Nations, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime.

Annotation: This document was drawn up by the United Nation’s Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT) to help establish ways to ameliorate human trafficking around the world. This document does not refer to the Middle East specifically, but it does refer to many of the known problems in the Middle East in terms of human trafficking and suggests ways to fix these problems. A few examples are the decriminalization of victims of trafficking, repatriating victims, and assessing each state’s specific trafficking problems. This is a lengthy but informative document which can be used mainly to apply to situations in the Middle East dealing with human trafficking.

Grawert, Elke. 1998. Making a Living in Rural Sudan. Chippenham: Antony Rowe Ltd.

Annotation: The author begins this book by acknowledging the great hardships faced by many in Sudan, from civil war to famine. Grawert’s focus is to examine how rural Sudanese survive these difficult situations, including the economic, migratory and social aspects. Historically, Sudanese were forced into the slave trade. The author links this past slave trade to the migration of Sudanese workers today. This book helps the reader grasp the specific hardships in rural Sudan, although some information is likely outdated due to the many changes in Sudan since 1998.

Gunatilleke, Godfrey, ed. 1991. Migration to the Arab World; Experience of Returning Migrants. Vol. 2. Tokyo: The United Nations University.

Annotation: This book presents a study on the migration of workers from Asia to the Middle East. By surveying returned migrant workers from seven different states in Asia, this book examines migrants’ experiences and problems they face in the Middle East. In other sources, the situation some migrant workers face in the Middle East has been portrayed as

human trafficking. Yet this book finds that many returned migrants are satisfied with their overall experience of migration. The results of this book are encouraging, but it does not answer the question of whether or not migrant workers who remain in the Middle East are there against their will, perhaps to pay off an exorbitant debt.

Haddad, Reem. 1999. "A Modern-Day 'Slave Trade:' Sri Lankan Workers in Lebanon." *Middle East Report* MER 211.

Annotation: This article gives examples of the hardships endured by women who are forced to work in Lebanon. The difficulty in attempting to escape their slavery is also discussed. Threats, beatings and debt bondage are a few of the difficulties faced by women from Sri Lanka and elsewhere in Lebanon. Embassies of the women's home states are often helpless in the legal constraints of Lebanese law. This article is a good insight into forced labor involving women in Lebanon.

Hotline for Migrant Workers. 2007. <http://www.hotline.org.il/english>.

Annotation: The Hotline for Migrant Workers is based out of Tel Aviv, Israel and focuses on helping undocumented workers and refugees. They also strive to eradicate human trafficking in Israel. In addition to various useful links and updates, the website offers information on how to assist those in need from trafficking problems. The organization uses three approaches to achieve their goals: crisis intervention, public policy and legal action. The Hotline for Migrant Workers has won various awards for their work in this area. This is a useful website that shows what a specific non-governmental organization is doing to work against human trafficking in Israel.

House of Representatives. 2006. Committee on International Relations "Modern Day Slavery: Spotlight on the 2006 'Trafficking in Persons Report,' Force Labor, and Sex Trafficking at the World Cup." 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2nd Session. June 14.

Annotation: The focus of this hearing was to examine the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, put together by the State Department. Although at this hearing, global trafficking was discussed, Middle Eastern states were often brought up to address the trafficking problems in this region. For example, Jordan was referred to as an example of a Middle Eastern state working to end its problem with trafficked workers. Sudan was discussed in depth to examine why its government is not doing more to alleviate their trafficking problems. This hearing is a good resource when researching trafficking because it shows what the U.S. government is doing about the problem. However, the document is not organized in a way that makes it easy to find specific regions, states or issues on trafficking.

Hughes, Donna M. 2001. *National Institute of Justice*: 15.  
[http://www.tfht.org/site\\_images/transnational.pdf](http://www.tfht.org/site_images/transnational.pdf).

Annotation: This article reflects the problem of sex trafficking around the world. The author begins by describing the problem, how prevalent the problem is, and the main states or regions involved. Hughes mainly discusses the U.S.'s role in sex trafficking, although regions around the world, including the Middle East, are used as examples in her writing. Israel and the United Arab Emirates are two Middle Eastern states that are used frequently to illustrate sex trafficking problems. Hughes concludes with strategies that are being used to work against sex trafficking. This article is very useful and ties the Middle East into the problem in a revealing way.

“Illegal Immigration; Libyan/Italian Deal.” 2007. *Africa Research Bulletin* 44 (12):17365.

Annotation: This is a concise article on the illegal immigration problem between Libya and Italy, which also includes human trafficking. Italy and Libya are working together to quell the number of illegal immigrants who make the often-dangerous trip between Libya and Italy to seek out work. Authorities from the two states are now patrolling the waters together, after years of negotiating how to effectively work together. Although brief, this article shows the entanglement of illegal immigration and victims of human trafficking, and how some states are working together to reduce the numbers of both populations.

Jok, Jok Madut. 2007. “Slave Raiding as War Tactic.” In Sudan; Race, Religion, and Violence. Edited by J. M. Jok. Oxford: Oneworld Publications.

Annotation: The specific section of the book discusses the use of slave raiding as a tool of war. Noting the hesitancy of the United Nations to refer to this as slavery in its 1998 report, Jok writes of the Sudanese government's role in these slave raids. This included support of the *Mujabideen* and other military factions, as well as defense acts passed by the government implicating their involvement. Sudanese women and children are often trafficked to the north, where they are seen as booty from raids and forced to become workers or wives of their abductors. Additional information of slave raids can be found throughout this book, but this section is the most useful for examining human trafficking.

Lewis, Bernard. 1994. Race and Slavery in the Middle East. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: Bernard Lewis's straightforward and to-the-point style of writing clearly illustrates the subject matter of his book. The historical approach of this book demonstrates the historical impacts on contemporary slavery and human trafficking in the Middle East. Lewis emphasizes the religious and racial aspects of slavery in this region through the history of slavery. Although the history of slavery in the Middle East is described in detail, a link to modern-day slavery in the region would be especially insightful.

Mackey, Robert. 2005. “Robot Jockeys.” *New York Times Magazine* 155 (53425):88-88.

Annotation: This article portrays the pros and cons of using light robots instead of children as jockeys for camel racing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and in Qatar. The robot,



controlled by the camel trainer in a vehicle behind the racing camels, is considered a step forward towards negating the child trafficking in this region for the purpose of becoming camel jockeys. However, one critic cautions that the camel races with robotic jockeys are only a cover for other camel races where young children are still used. This article covers an interesting technological approach to ways of countering human trafficking in the Middle East.

Malcolm, Teresa. 1999. "Activists Decry Slave Redemption in Africa's Sudan." *National Catholic Reporter* 35 (22):11.

Annotation: This concise article brings up the controversial issue of buying slaves in Sudan in order to free them from the slave trade. The author does a good job of weighing in the thoughts of other organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and UNICEF. The author examines the argument that buying slaves their freedom helps to supply the demand for slaves and the concern of what happens to large populations of former slaves once they are freed. While inherently biased, this article demonstrates some of the religious aspects of human trafficking in the Middle East and the components used in attempting to decrease human trafficking in this region.

Mattar, Mohamed. 2007. "Article 35 of the New Iraqi Constitution: Recognition of Trafficking in Women and Children as a Specific Crime." The Protection Project.  
[www.protectionproject.org/commentary/imm.htm](http://www.protectionproject.org/commentary/imm.htm).

Annotation: This is a brief commentary by Dr. Mohamed Mattar who writes about the new Iraqi Constitution and Article 35. Article 35 is considered a big step for women and children in human trafficking because the Article clearly prohibits the trade of women and children in the sex trade. Mattar notes that Iraq is the first Arab state to explicitly prohibit trading women and children in the sex trade. He goes on to write that there is definitely more work that needs to be done to further protect women and children, including going more in-depth with this law and involving Iraqi civil society on the issue.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2003. "Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in Countries of the Middle East: The Scope of the Problem and the Appropriate Legislative Responses." *Fordham International Law Journal* 26 (3):721-760.

Annotation: This comprehensive article examines forms of human trafficking in the Middle East and the legislation on these specific forms of trafficking. Mattar also looks at how effective these laws are in combating trafficking, comparing the legislation to see if it is to the standard of the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Mattar weaves Koran readings into the discussion to examine how religion plays into human trafficking. The conclusion gives recommendations as to how Middle Eastern states should work to end human trafficking. This article is very informative and helpful in understanding the aspects of human trafficking in this region, especially from legal and religious points of view.

Mideast Youth. 2007. [www.mideastyouth.com](http://www.mideastyouth.com).

Annotation: Mideast Youth is a website that promotes dialogue about the Middle East. The main objectives of the site are to promote “human rights and freedom of expression.” The two projects of Mideast Youth specific to human trafficking are their Migrant Rights and Sexual Terrorism projects. This website, clearly designed to accommodate younger generations, uses pod casts, video clips, radio broadcasts and petition signing along with blogs to communicate, educate and inspire. This is a good website to see how youth in the Middle East, from different religions and different states, are reacting and working against human trafficking in this region.

Migrant Rights. 2008. Mideast Youth. [www.migrant-rights.org](http://www.migrant-rights.org).

Annotation: Migrant Rights is a project Mideast Youth is using to increase awareness about migrant workers’ problems. Mideast Youth uses this project, among other means, to lobby their governments to pass laws in favor of migrants’ rights. The main objective of this website is to post newspaper articles on migrant workers abuses in the Middle East. These articles can be searched by a particular state, issue, or date.

Minitzer, Richard. 2004. “Slave Redemption Increases Slavery in Sudan.” In *Slavery Today*. Edited by A. Ojeda. Farmington Hills: Greenhaven Press. 49-59.

Annotation: Minitzer writes about the negative aspects of slave redemption. He argues that redemption increases the demand for slaves. The history of slavery in Sudan, the newer phase of redeeming Sudanese slaves, and the role of Christian Solidarity International (CSI) are described in this chapter. Minitzer uses anecdotes and statistics to demonstrate how redeeming slaves supports the slave trade in Sudan. In alternatives given to redemption, Minitzer suggests focusing on the “train of death,” which is the main means to transport large numbers of slaves in Sudan. Minitzer offers a convincing, interesting, and informative argument against redeeming slaves in Sudan.

Moszynski, Peter. 2007. “A Living History.” *Index on Censorship*: 56-61.

Annotation: Slavery in Sudan has been prevalent historically and continues to be a problem today. Moszynski takes the reader through Sudan’s unfortunately long history with slavery, beginning in the 1800s. The author links the past slave trade to the contemporary slave trade. Influencing factors of the contemporary slave trade include the current Arab government, the continuing Arab control over the predominantly black southern Sudan, and civil wars. Moszynski’s short article is very helpful in understanding the current slave trade in Sudan and the roots the trade has in this state.

The Protection Project. 2007. [www.protectionproject.org](http://www.protectionproject.org).

Annotation: The Protection Project is a research institute at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University. The website addresses the problem of human trafficking and human rights worldwide, particularly focusing on women and children, building of civil society, law, and human rights education. The “commentary and publications” link is especially useful to find statements, speeches and discussions of specialists on the subject. Dr. Mohamed Mattar, one of the staff, has done a significant amount of work on trafficking in the Middle East. This is a good website to see how a research institute can work against human trafficking and to find resources.

“Qatar Bans Use of Children as Jockeys for Camels.” 2005. *New York Times* 154 (53079):11.

Annotation: This concise article is about how the Qatar government is publicly working to curb child trafficking for the purpose of becoming camel jockeys by banning the use of children as jockeys. The decision was reached in light of the robot jockey that is supposed to replace children in camel races. In Qatar, the ban of child jockeys is seen as a step towards human rights. While the article is encouraging for child jockeys, there is no guarantee that the robot jockey will satisfy camel racing fans and lead to the end of child trafficking for that purpose.

Segal, Ronald. 2001. Islam’s Black Slaves. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Annotation: This book offers a history of the slave trade of Africans by Arabs. Most of the book focuses on the historical aspect from the Islamic perspective in general and then looks at specific regions. Segal also examines specific colonized states and their transition out of colonization. The last chapter (12) is the most relevant to human trafficking in the Middle East today. This chapter discusses the problems specifically in Mauritania and Sudan, but includes the slave trade in the context of the entire Middle East.

Sherry, Virginia. 2004. “Workers’ Hell in Saudi Arabia.” *The South China Morning Post*, July 24. <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2004/07/24/saudia9159.htm>.

Annotation: Virginia Sherry is the associate director of the Middle East and North Africa division of Human Rights Watch, an organization that is dedicated to addressing human rights violations around the world, from trafficking to torture. This article is a short description of the horrors that migrants to Saudi Arabia endure, including unfair trials, terrible working conditions, torture, and the debt many have accumulated from overpriced traveling expenses. The author concludes by noting the changes in Saudi Arabia since September 11, 2001, but she calls on Saudi Arabia to address its migrant worker issues with the same intensity as the state has worked on the war on terror.

Stegeborn, Wiveca. 2001. “Endangered Wanniyala-Aetto women as sex slaves in the Middle East.” *Nomadic Peoples* 5 (1):175-178.

Annotation: Stegeborn uses the plight of Sri Lanka's Wanniyala-Aetto tribeswomen in the Middle Eastern sex trade to demonstrate the inner-workings of human traffickers and recruiters. Stegeborn takes the reader from the bus that arrives at night to take the girls to their new "maid" jobs in the Middle East to the false documents and apparent disappearance of the supposed "maids." Although this article is short and somewhat emotional, it gives a good account of how complicated yet organized human trafficking for the sex trade can be.

Task Force on Human Trafficking. 2005. [www.tfht.org](http://www.tfht.org).

Annotation: The Task Force on Human Trafficking (TFHT) is a project of a larger Israeli organization that works on social justice problems, ATZUM. TFHT is an Israeli organization that strives to end human trafficking in Israel. In particular, the organization works with the Israeli government to stop trafficking, aid the victims, and promote awareness of the problem. The website is very user-friendly, well organized, and informative. The site includes resources, links to other non-governmental organizations working on human trafficking, and lists ways that individuals can help through the website. Some of their resources are not as up-to-date as would be expected, many from 2005 or earlier. Although the female human trafficking problem continues to thrive in Israel, this organization seems to be doing a great deal to help eliminate the issue.

Teyeb, Moctar. 2004. "Slavery in Mauritania Is a Serious Problem." In *Slavery Today*. Edited by A. Ojeda. Framington Hill: Greenhaven Press. 15-18.

Annotation: Teyeb makes it clear that the slave trade is still thriving in Mauritania because Arab slave owners continue to own African slaves. The author discusses how the Muslim black slaves are told that serving their master is their religious duty. Africans' black skins are "impure" they are told, and therefore, they will only be forgiven if they obey their masters. Teyeb notes that this is not what the Koran teaches. The author also comments on the silence of the issue in Mauritania and encourages knowledge of and speaking out about the issue. Although only a few pages long, this chapter gives insight into the depth of the modern-day slavery in this state.

"Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns." 2006. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. [www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-globalpatterns-en.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-globalpatterns-en.pdf).

Annotation: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has created the Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings (GPAT). as well as the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT) in their attempts to combat human trafficking. The Trafficking in Persons Report, put together by GPAT, gives information on trafficked persons around the world. A large portion of the report is devoted to methodology of the studies, which may be useful if examining this aspect of human trafficking. The appendices are most useful for looking specifically at Middle Eastern states. Middle Eastern states are grouped together with West Asian or North African states, which makes searching for Middle Eastern trafficking issues specifically difficult.

“Trafficking in Persons Report.” 2007. U.S. State Department.  
[www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf](http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf).

Annotation: The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report is put together by the U.S. Department of State every year in order to show how governments around the world are working, or not working, to end human trafficking. Importantly, the TIP Report includes a system in which governments are ranked according to how much effort they put into ending human trafficking: Tier 1 indicates governments are doing well whereas Tier 3 signifies that governments need to put more effort into stopping the problem. According to the TIP Report, eight of the sixteen Tier 3 states are in the Middle East, which indicates that many states of this region are not doing enough to stem human trafficking. This is a highly useful resource for examining efforts made by Middle Eastern governments to combat trafficking.

“Trafficking in Women, Forced Labor and Domestic Work in the Context of the Middle East and Gulf Region.” Anti-Slavery International. 2006.  
[www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/traffic%20women%20forced%20labour%20domestic%202006.pdf](http://www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/PDF/traffic%20women%20forced%20labour%20domestic%202006.pdf).

Annotation: This working paper for the group Anti-Slavery International is very useful on the issue of human trafficking in the Middle East. The article clarifies the different types of migrant workers and how these people often have very few rights. The paper underlines the fact that international law is lacking around the issue of migrant workers. The overall aim of the paper is to study the dynamics of migrant domestic workers in the Middle East and Gulf regions and look for ways to help abused workers. The examples, anecdotes, graphs, and select state profiles are particularly helpful.

Warburg, Gabriel. 2003. Islam, Sectarianism and Politics in Sudan since the Mahdiyya. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.

Annotation: Warburg’s book is a historical compilation of Islam and Sudan. Ethnicity and religion have played a part in the Sudanese conflict, and have led to the continued exploitation of the Arab-dominated black population. This book gives a historical perspective of the conflict in Sudan, referring often to the slave trade in the past. Although this book does not have extensive information on the current Sudan slave trade, it would be a good reference for doing a comprehensive study specifically on Sudan and human trafficking.

Weissbrodt, David and Anti-Slavery International. “Abolishing Slavery and its Contemporary Forms.” 2002. New York. [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/slaveryen.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/slaveryen.pdf).

Annotation: This document was written for the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, a part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and includes information on various aspects of modern slavery from the definition of slavery to forms of slavery such as serfdom and sex tourism. It also discusses international monitoring

tools such as slavery conventions. Although the Middle East is not the specific focus of this document, many of the trafficking issues in the Middle East are included, such as migrant workers, debt bondage, child labor, and laws and other legal instruments that are in place to counter trafficking. Despite the broad subject of this document, it is thorough and useful when researching the many issues surrounding the subject of slavery and human trafficking.

In the Middle East and North Africa, as in other regions of the world, high fertility and low infant mortality during the 1960s and 1970s were responsible for major demographic shifts, the impact of which is apparent today. Although school enrolment rates have risen or remained steady in the Middle East and North Africa, chronic underinvestment in higher education and in science and technology development has made it virtually impossible for most countries to build a robust and inter-nationally competitive private sector and achieve broader economic diversification (United Nations Millennium Project, 2005). Journalists in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continue to face grave violations of their civil and human rights, including murder by governments or armed groups, usually with total impunity. Countries such as Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen continue to be classified among the most dangerous places for journalists. Audacity in Adversity: LGBT Activism in the Middle East and North Africa. Despite state-sponsored repression and social stigma, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in the Middle East and North Africa are finding ways to speak out. They are telling their stories, building alliances, networking across borders, developing national and regional movements, and finding creative ways to combat homophobia and transphobia. Within the Middle East, the migrant share of the region's population grew from 7% in 2005 to approximately 13% in 2015. Put another way, about one-in-ten people living in the Middle East today are international migrants or were forcibly displaced. This growth in the Middle East's migrant population is largely the result of two factors – conflict and economic opportunity. Armed conflict in countries such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen has displaced millions of people since 2005. This increase in the number of displaced people, including those displaced within their own birth countries, accounts for t The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)\* is the most water-scarce region of the world. Home to 6.3 percent of the world's population, the region contains only 1.4 percent of the world's renewable fresh water. As population pressures in the region increase, the demand for water resources rises. Country strategies to deal with water shortages depend on local conditions, including topography, the extent of water scarcity, available financial resources, and technical and institutional capacity. Overall, developing a mix of strategies that increase supply, manage demand, and reduce long-term pressures on water is urgent more than ever before, as population pressures in the region continue to increase. Fresh Water: A Scarce and Critical Resource.