



# Child Labour status- an overview

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# Child Labour

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- For the year 2000, the ILO projects that there will be 13,157,000 economically active children, 5,992,000 girls and 7,165,000 boys between the ages of 10-14, representing 12.07% of this age group. (ILO STAT, Working Papers, 1997)
- The Law Minister said that the country has 20 million child labourers. ("Laws alone cannot tackle child labour", Indian Express, 5 February 2000)
- India's Country Report states that the number of working children was estimated to be 17 million. The present figure is estimated to be around 20 million. However, this is without including employment in the un-organized sector of the economy such as domestic workers, agricultural workers and so on. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- There are between 70 to 80 million child labourers in India. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999)
- There are an estimated 111 million child labourers. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999, citing The Balal Data Bank, Manila, based on the premise that if half of India's over 800 million population lives in poverty, the number of working children in India is likely to be over 100 million)
- Unofficial child labour estimates are as high as 111 million, which is slightly equivalent to the number of 'out-of-school' children. (US Dept of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children: Efforts to Eliminate Child Labour, 1998)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- National Labour Institute indicates that out of 203 million children between the ages of 5 and 14, 116 million are in school, 12.6 million are in full-time employment, and the status of 74 million is unknown. Most, if not all, of the 87 million children, not in school, do housework, work on family farms, work alongside their parents as paid agricultural labourers, work as domestic servants, or are otherwise employed. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- There are 150 million child workers. (IWGCL, Working Children: Reconsidering the Debates, 1998)
- In 1998, the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS) estimated there were 60 million child labourers in India. (SACCS, Kailash Satyarthi, personal communication, 1998)
- The ILO estimated the number of child workers as 44 million, while some NGO estimates show it as 55 million. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1998)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- As many as 100 million boys and girls are believed to be working in homes and factories across India, many under conditions akin to slavery. ("Child Labour Ruling Provokes Scorn", ECPAT Bulletin, Vol. 4/1, 1996-97)
- A survey of child labour throughout the country ordered by the Supreme Court was completed during 1997, and it documented the existence of some 126,665 wage-earning child labourers. When this figure was challenged as patently low, the states conducted a second survey, in which an additional 428,305 child labourers in hazardous industries were found. However, even the combined total of the two surveys understates the true dimension of the problem. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- Francoise Remington, founder of Forgotten Children, estimates India has 55 million child workers in the age group of 6-14 years. (Mary E. Williams, Child Labor And Sweat Shops, 1999, citing testimony before the US Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, 15 July 1996)
- There are around 77 million child labourers in the country. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999, citing Commission on Labour Standards and International Trade, Government of India, 1995, based on the families living below the poverty line)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- In 1995, there were 14,802,000 economically active children between the ages of 10-14, representing 14.38% of this age group. Of these children, 6,725,000 were girls and 8,077,000 were boys. (ILO STAT, Working Papers, 1997)
- The figures for child labour are 20 million. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999, citing the Indian Labour Minister, August 1994)
- The government-established Commission on Labour Standards found the number of child labourers in 1993 to be 25 million, and growing at 4% each year. (EI Barometer, 1998)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- The Government of India acknowledges 17.5 million working children, but other estimates note 44 million to over 100 million child workers. (US Dept of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children, 1994)
- There are 17 million child workers according to the 43rd NSS report. (ILO-IPEC, Implementation Report, 1992-1993)
- Total child labour is estimated to be between 17 to 44 million, of which 80% are in the agricultural sector. (ILO-IPEC, Implementation Report, 1992-1993)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- Of the 210 million children between the ages of 5-14 years, 11,285,000 are child workers (5.4%) according to the 1991 National Census. (US Dept of Labor, *Sweat and Toil of Children: Efforts to Eliminate Child Labour*, 1998)
- The government estimated in 1990 that there were 22 million child workers. (EI Barometer, 1998)



# Child Labour Continued...

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- 44 million children are estimated to be employed. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999, citing Operations Research Group, 1983)
- According to the Planning Commission, in 1983, there were 17.36 million child labourers. (CACL, "An Alternative Report on the Status of Child Labour in India", submission to the UN CRC, September-October 1999)



# Child Labour: Local Statistics

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- Andhra Pradesh has 1,662,000 child labourers, the highest in the country, with the problem being very acute in Mahboobnagar, Kurnool and Prakasam districts. ("AP has highest number of child labourers", Press Trust of India, 12/9/2000)



# Child Labour: General observations...

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- Most of the 87 million children, not in school, do housework, work on family farms, work along side their parents as paid agricultural labour, work as domestic servants, or are employed in industries which utilize child labour such as hand-knotted carpets, gemstone polishing, brass and brass metal articles, glass and glassware, footwear, textiles, silk and fireworks. (EI Barometer, 1998)



# Child Slavery

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- There are no universally accepted figures for the number of bonded child labourers. However, in the carpet industry alone, human rights organizations estimate that there may be as many as 300,000 children working, many of them under conditions that amount to bonded labour. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- The labour commissioner estimated that there were 3,000 bonded child labourers in the Magadi silk twining factories in Karnataka. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Slavery Continued...

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- Some NGOs estimate that the number of bonded labourers is 5 million persons. However, in a report released during the year, Human Rights Watch estimated that 40 million persons, including 15 million children, are bonded labourers. The report notes that the majority of bonded labourers are Dalits, and that bondage is passed from one generation to the next. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- There are 5 million adult bonded labourers and 10 million child bonded labourers. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)



# Child Slavery Continued...

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- An estimated 15 million children are working under bondage. But other estimates suggest there are 15 million alone in agriculture. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)
- Human Rights Watch estimates that there are 300,000 children working in the carpet industry, 270,000 of whom are bonded labourers. (US Dept of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children: Consumer Labels and Child Labor, 1997)
- 10 million children were in bondage in 1996. (Volunteers for Social Justice, Jai Singh, statement to the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, June 1996)



# Child Slavery: Local Statistics

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- 15% of the 100,000 children working in the carpet industry of Uttar Pradesh are in debt-bondage. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)
- 70-80% of the 8,000 to 50,000 children in the glass industry in Ferozabad are bonded. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)
- 30-40% children in the match and fireworks industry are bonded. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)



# Child Slavery:

## Local Statistics Continued...

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- Half of 100,000 girl prostitutes between 10-14 in Bombay are from Nepal and kept in brothels against their will. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)
- A report prepared by advocate Mohammed Siraj Sait and NGO activist Dr Felix Sugirtharaj submitted in the Supreme Court in February 1996 estimates that there are some 1 million bonded labourers in Tamil Nadu. Bonded labour was found to exist in substantial numbers in all the 23 districts of Tamil Nadu and in over 20 occupations. The largest proportion of those in bondage were adult men, with the largest single group working in agriculture and the next largest in stone quarries. It was found that the largest numbers of bonded children were in four industries: silk-weaving, growing flowers, silver work and rolling beedi (local cigars). In the age group below 15, accounting for almost 10% of all those in bondage, there were almost as many girls as boys. (UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, June 1996)



# Child Slavery: Adult Statistics

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- 90% of the 100,000 women in prostitution in Bombay are indentured slaves. (CATW Fact Book, citing Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption are leading to an AIDS Catastrophe", The Nation, 8 April 1996)
- Over 10-20 million people are subjected to debt-bondage largely in India, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Philippines. (Debt Bondage: The Challenge for the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, submission to the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, June 1996)
- There are 15 million bonded workers. (UNICEF, Atlas of South Asian Children and Women, 1996)



# Child Slavery: General Observations

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- Domestic media reported that child labourers were being sold in an organised ring at the annual Sonapur cattle fair in Bihar. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- In West Bengal, the organised traffic in illegal Bangladeshi immigrants is a source of bonded labour. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- Persons sometimes are sold into virtual slavery. Many boys, some of whom are as young as 4, end up as riders in camel races in West Asia and the Gulf States, especially in the United Arab Emirates, or begging during the Haj. Girls and women end up either as domestic workers or sex workers. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Slavery: General Observations

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- In the following industries, there is a reasonable basis to believe that products were produced using forced or indentured child labour: brassware; hand-knotted wool carpets; explosive fireworks; footwear; hand-blown glass bangles; hand-made locks; hand-dipped matches; hand-broken quarried stones; hand-spun silk thread and hand-loomed silk cloth; hand-made bricks and beedis (hand-rolled cigarettes). (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- There are element of bonded labour in the gem industry. Parents of 80% of children who worked full time had taken loans against their children's labour. (ICFTU, "Union Investigation Reveals Dirty End of the Diamond and Precious Stone Business", 1997)



# Child Slavery: General Observations

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- A large number of bonded children were found working in 4 industries i.e. silk weaving, flower growing, silver work and rolling beedis. ("India court investigation reveal scale of bonded labour", UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, June 1996)
- It takes up to 15 years for girls held in prostitution via debt-bondage to purchase their freedom. (Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption Are Leading to an AIDS Catastrophe", The Nation, 8 April 1996)
- Bonded child labour is evident in the Indian carpet industry. (US Dept of Labor, Sweat and Toil of Children, 1994)



# Child Trafficking:

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- Over 1 million girls and women are believed to be forced into the sex industry within the country at any given time. Women's rights organisations and NGO's estimate that more than 12,000 and perhaps as many as 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighbouring states for the sex trade. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 2001)
- According to an ILO estimate, 15% of the country's estimated 2.3 million prostitutes are children. The traffic is controlled largely by organised crime. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 2001)
- An untested estimate of 270,000 child prostitutes, the problem of child prostitution in India is widespread and quite visible. (ECPAT, CSEC Database)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Estimates vary, but a safe guess is that several thousand Bangladeshi girls and five to seven thousand Nepalese girls are trafficked out of the country and primarily to India each year. It is estimated that Nepalese children constitute 20% (40,000) of the estimated 200,000 Nepalese prostitutes in India. Girls as young as seven years are trafficked from economically depressed neighbourhoods in Nepal and Bangladesh, to the major prostitution centres of Mumbai, Calcutta, and Delhi. In Mumbai, an estimated 90% of sex workers started when they were under 18 years of age; half are from Nepal. India is also a significant source and transit country. (ECPAT, CSEC Database)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- There is a growing pattern of trafficking in child prostitutes from Nepal. According to one estimate, 5,000 to 7,000 children, mostly between the ages of 10 and 18, are drawn into this traffic annually. NGOs in the region estimate that some 6,000 to 10,000 girls are trafficked annually from Nepal to Indian brothels and a similar number are trafficked from Bangladesh. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Women's rights organizations and NGOs estimate that more than 12,000 and perhaps as many as 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighboring states for the sex trade. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- 200,000 Nepalese girls under 16 years are in prostitution in India. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Every year between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked into the red-light districts in Indian cities. Many of the girls are barely 9 or 10 years old. 200,000 to over 250,000 Nepalese women and girls are already in Indian brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing Soma Wadhwa, "For sale childhood", Outlook, 1998)
- 27,000 Bangladeshi women and children have been forced into prostitution in Indian brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Women Forced into Indian Brothels", CWCS, June 1998)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Over the last decade, 200,000 Bangladeshi girls were lured under false circumstances and sold into the sex industry in nations including Pakistan, India and the Middle East. (CATW Fact Book, citing Tabibul Islam, "Rape of Minors Worry Parents", IPS, 8 April 1998)
- Nepalese, Bangladeshi and Pakistani women are trafficked to India, and through India they are trafficked to Eastern Europe and Saudi Arabia. (CATW Fact Book, citing Meena Oudel, Oxfam Nepal, 18 March 1998)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Bangladeshi police estimated more than 15,000 women and children are smuggled out of Bangladesh every year. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Boys, rescued in India while being smuggled to become jockeys in camel races", February 1998)
- There are 200 trafficked Bangladeshi women and children in detention centers in India awaiting repatriation. (CATW Fact Book, citing Hindu, 19 February 1998)
- 20% of the child prostitutes in India come from Bangladesh and Nepal. (BNWLA, Salma Ali, Country Report on Trafficking in Children and Their Exploitation in Prostitution, October 1998, citing a research publication by Dr. K.K. Mukherjee of India)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- A survey by the Central Social Welfare Board of India indicated that the population of Nepalese women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Indian brothels would be between 70,000 to 100,000 of which 30% were below 18 years. (ILO-IPEC, Usha D. Acharya, Country Report: Nepal, October 1998)
- More than 9,000 girls are trafficked each year from Nepal and Bangladesh into bondage in India and Pakistan, often with the acquiescence or cooperation of state officials. (CATW Fact Book, citing Amnesty International press release, 22 April 1998)
- The brothels of India hold between 100,000 and 160,000 Nepalese women and girls. (CATW Fact Book, citing Gustavo Capdevila, IPS, 2 April 1997, citing Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Report on Violence Against Women)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- CWIN's studies have revealed that Nepalese children are involved in different labour sectors in India. Most prominent is the carpet industry. CWIN estimates that there are 5,000-7,000 children working in Bhadohi and Mirzapur in Benaras, districts bordering Nepal. (CWIN, "Nepal-India Cross Border Child Labour Migration", Child Workers in Asia, April-September 1997)
- An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 Indian children are smuggled out every year to Saudi Arabia for begging during the Haj season. From Murshidabad alone, some 400 children accompanied by their chachas leave every year, and not all of them return home again. ("How to earn big bucks: Rent a child to Chacha", The Asian Age, 16 March 1997, cited in Child Workers in Asia, April-September 1997)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Between 2,000 and 5,000 children are sent across the border to India for prostitution every year. (Kota Neelima, "Young sex workers are costly commodity", ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996)
- Of the 5,000-7,000 Nepalese girls trafficked into India yearly, the average age over the past decade has fallen from 14-16-year old to 10-14-year olds. (CATW-Asia Pacific, Trafficking in Women and Prostitution in the Asia Pacific, 1996)
- 15,000 Nepalese women and 19,000 children are kidnapped, lured, trafficked and sold into different cities of India. (Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Action, The Flesh Trade Report, 1995-1996)



# Child Trafficking: Continued...

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- Every year 5,000 to 7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked to India. An estimated 40,000 to 45,000 of these girls are in Bombay brothels and also nearly an equal number of them are in Calcutta. (Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Action, The Flesh Trade Report, 1995-1996)
- Nepalese social workers estimate the number of Nepalese girls and women working in Indian brothels at about 200,000, and believe that between 5,000 and 7,000 new Nepalese end up in Indian brothels every year. (Human Rights Watch/Asia, Rape and Profit, June 1995)
- 4,800 Bangladeshi girls were trafficked to Pakistan and India. (Nishanthi Priyangika, "Child labour on the increase in Bangladesh", World Socialist Web Site, 3/11/1999, citing UNICEF Report 1994)



# Child Trafficking: Local statistics

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- Half of 100,000 girl prostitutes between 10-14 in Bombay are from Nepal and are kept in brothels against their will. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)
- There are 5 child trading rings in and around Murshidabad in West Bengal, who operate by trafficking children to Mecca, says local police. (Swati Bhattacharjee, "New Measures Needed to Tackle Child Trafficking", Child Newslines, May 1997)
- 10,000 Bangladeshi children are in brothels in Bombay and Goa, India. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Human smuggling from Bangladesh at alarming level", Reuters, 26 May 1997, citing Trafficking Watch Bangladesh)

# Child Trafficking:

## Local statistics Continued...

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- 10-12,000 Bangladeshi children are thought to be employed in the brothels of Bombay and West Bengal. (An Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, submission to the UN CRC, 1997, citing UNICEF, The Progress of the Nations, 1995)
- About 45,000 Nepalese girls are in the brothels of Bombay and 40,000 in Calcutta. (CATW Fact Book, citing UBINIG, Trafficking in Women and Children: The Cases of Bangladesh, 1995, citing women's groups in Nepal)
- In Calcutta, in various studies conducted by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in 1993 estimate that 20% of the 5,000 sex workers in the Sonagachi red light area are Nepalese. (Human Rights Watch/Asia, Rape and Profit, June 1995)



# Child Trafficking:

## Local statistics Continued...

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- 2,000 Indian children have been trafficked to Mecca over the last 3 years. ("Child Smuggling Racket Continues to Thrive")
- In Bombay, India, at least half of the city's 100,000 prostitutes are believed to be Nepalese girls. (ILO-IPEC, Usha D. Acharya, Country Report: Nepal, October 1998)
- The number of Nepalese girls and women engaged in prostitution in Calcutta exceeds 27,000, in Delhi it is more than 21,000, in Gorakhpur it is 4,700, and in Banaras it is 3,480. (ILO-IPEC, Usha D. Acharya, Country Report: Nepal, October 1998)



# Child Trafficking: Adult Statistics

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- 200,000 to over 250,000 Nepalese women and girls are already in Indian brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing Soma Wadhwa, "For sale childhood", Outlook, 1998)
- 20%-30% of commercial sex workers in India have been trafficked from Nepal. (World Vision, David Westwood, Child Trafficking in Asia, 1998)
- The Indian Social Welfare Board estimates that there are 500,000 foreign prostitutes in India of which 1% are from Bangladesh. And 2.7% of prostitutes in Calcutta alone are from Bangladesh. (CATW Fact Book, citing CEDAW Report: Bangladesh, 1 April 1997)



# Child Trafficking: Adult Statistics Continued...

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- 30,000 Bangladeshi women are in the brothels of Calcutta, India. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Human Smuggling from Bangladesh at alarming level", Reuters, 26 May 1997)
- 2.5% of prostitutes in India are Nepalese, and 2.7% are Bangladeshi. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Devadasi System Continues to Legitimise Prostitution: The Devadasi Tradition and Prostitution", Times of India, 4 December 1997)
- Approximately 50,000, or half of the women in prostitution in Bombay, are trafficked from Nepal. (CATW Fact Book, citing Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption are Leading to an AIDS Catastrophe", The Nation, 8 April 1996)



# Child Trafficking:

## Adult Statistics Continued...

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- In 1994, 2,000 Bangladeshi women were prostituted in 6 cities in India. (CATW-Asia Pacific, Trafficking in Women and Prostitution in the Asia Pacific, 1996)
- 160,000 Nepalese women are held in India's brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing SANLAAP India, Indrani Sinha, "Paper on Globalization & Human Rights")



# Child Trafficking: General Observations

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- India is a source, transit, and destination country for trafficked persons. Internal trafficking of Indian women and children is widespread. Nepalese girls as young as 11, 12, 13 years old have been trafficked into India to work as prostitutes. (Will Dunham, "U.S. grapples with 'modern-day slavery'", 1 September 2000, reprinted in Stop Trafficking Archive, September 2000)
- There is extensive trafficking of children from Bangladesh, primarily to India, Pakistan, and destinations within the country are also largely for the purposes of forced prostitution. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- South Africa is a transit point for a large trafficking network operating between developing countries and Europe, United States, and Canada. Migrants from foreign countries, particularly China, India, the Middle East, former Eastern Bloc countries and other African countries, are lured to South Africa. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Trafficking: General Observations Continued...

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- Women trafficked out from Thailand to Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Australia, India, Malaysia and Middle East. (CATW Fact Book, citing European Conference on Trafficking in Women, Trafficking of Women to the European Union, June 1996)
- India and Pakistan are the main destinations for children under the age of 16 years who are trafficked in South Asia. (CATW Fact Book, citing Masako Iijima, "S. Asia urged to unite against child prostitution", Reuters, 19 June 1998)
- The trafficking of girls from Nepal into India for the purpose of prostitution is probably the busiest 'slave traffic' of its kind anywhere in the world. (CATW Fact Book, citing Tim McGirk, "Nepal's Lost Daughters", 27 January 1997)



# Child Trafficking: General Observations Continued...

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- 76 children, mainly girls and some physically handicapped returned from Jedda. They were sent to beg during the Haj. Within a month of the return of this group, 47 boys were trafficked for begging. ("Children Sent to the Middle East to Beg", Child Workers in Asia, April-September 1997)
- Notorious in their own right for appalling working conditions, Nepalese carpet factories, where 50% of the workers are estimated to be children, are common sites of sexual exploitation by employers, as well as recruitment centres for Indian brothels. (UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 1997)
- There could be a few hundred thousand Bangladeshi girls in various houses of prostitution in India. (Brother Jarlath de Souza, "Trafficking in Children: Bangladesh", Child Workers in Asia, July-September 1996)



# Child Trafficking:

## General Observations Continued...

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- A number of girls are trafficked into India from Nepal and Bangladesh. (US Dept of Labor, Prostitution of Children, 1996)
- Reports indicate trafficking of children into Pakistan from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. (US Dept of Labor, Prostitution of Children, 1996)
- In cross border trafficking, India is a sending, receiving and transit nation. Receiving children from Bangladesh and Nepal and sending women and children to Middle Eastern nations is a daily occurrence. (CATW Fact Book, citing SANLAAP India, Indrani Sinha, "Paper on Globalisation and Human Rights")



# Child Trafficking:

## General Observations Continued...

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- Women and children from India are sent to nations of the Middle East daily. (CATW Fact Book, citing SANLAAP India, Indrani Sinha, "Paper on Globalization & Human Rights")
- Districts bordering Maharashtra and Karnataka, known as the 'devadasi belt', have trafficking structures operating at various levels. Many are devadasis dedicated into prostitution for the goddess Yellamma. In one Karnataka brothel, all 15 girls are devadasis. (CATW Fact Book, citing Meena Menon, "The Unknown Faces")



# Child Prostitution:

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- Over 1 million girls and women are believed to be forced into the sex industry within the country at any given time. Women's rights organizations and NGO's estimate that more than 12,000 and perhaps as many as 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighboring states for the sex trade. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 2001)
- According to an ILO estimate, 15% of the country's estimated 2.3 million prostitutes are children. The traffic is controlled largely by organized crime. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 2001)
- It is estimated that Nepalese children constitute 20% (40,000) of the estimated 200,000 Nepalese prostitutes in India. Girls as young as seven years are trafficked from economically depressed neighbourhoods in Nepal and Bangladesh, to the major prostitution centres of Mumbai, Calcutta, and Delhi. In Mumbai, an estimated 90% of sex workers started when they were under 18 years of age; half are from Nepal. (ECPAT, CSEC Database)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- Prostitution is widespread, with an estimated 2.3 million prostitutes in the country, some 575,000 of whom are children. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- According to ILO estimates, 15% of the country's estimated 2.3 million prostitutes are children. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- Recent studies indicate that of the estimated 9,000,000 prostitutes working in India, some 30% or 2,700,000 are children. A further 10% reported that they had started their 'career' in prostitution before they were 18 years of age. A large number of these children are trafficked from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. (ECPAT International, A Step Forward, 1999)
- One quarter of prostitutes are minors. (CATW 1999)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- 25-30% of prostitutes are children. An estimated number of child prostitutes is 400,000. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)
- There is a growing pattern of trafficking in child prostitutes from Nepal. According to one estimate, 5,000 to 7,000 children, mostly between the ages of 10 and 18, are drawn into this traffic annually. NGOs in the region estimate that some 6,000 to 10,000 girls are trafficked annually from Nepal to Indian brothels and a similar number are trafficked from Bangladesh. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)
- Women's rights organizations and NGOs estimate that more than 12,000 and perhaps as many as 50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighbouring states for the sex trade. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- 30% of India's 1 million prostitutes are girls below the age of 16 years. (SPARC, The State of Pakistan's Children, 1999, citing "Child Prostitution Increasing in Indo-Pak", The Frontier Post, 25 November 1998)
- A survey by the Central Social Welfare Board of India indicated that the population of Nepalese women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in Indian brothels would be between 70,000 to 100,000 of which 30% were below 18 years. (ILO-IPEC, Usha D. Acharya, Country Report: Nepal, October 1998)
- Over 100,000 child prostitutes are estimated to be in India's major cities. (June Kane, Sold for Sex, 1998)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- Over the last decade, 200,000 Bangladeshi girls were lured under false circumstances and sold into the sex industry in nations including Pakistan, India and the Middle East. (CATW Fact Book, citing Tabibul Islam, "Rape of Minors Worry Parents", IPS, 8 April 1998)
- Every year between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked into the red-light districts in Indian cities. Many of the girls are barely 9 or 10 years old. (CATW Fact Book, citing Soma Wadhwa, "For sale childhood", Outlook, 1998)
- 27,000 Bangladeshi women and children have been forced into prostitution in Indian brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Women Forced into Indian Brothels", CWCS, June 1998)
- 200,000 Nepalese girls under 16 years are in prostitution. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- 40,000 Nepalese girls under 16 in Indian brothels are forced into prostitution. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)
- 20% of the child prostitutes in India come from Bangladesh and Nepal. (BNWLA, Salma Ali, Country Report on Trafficking in Children and their Exploitation in Prostitution, October 1998, citing a research publication by Dr. K.K. Mukherjee of India)
- 300,000-500,000 children are engaged in prostitution. (CATW Fact Book, citing Rahul Bedi, "Bid to Protect Children as Sex Tourism Spreads", Daily Telegraph (London), 23 August 1997)
- 15% of prostitutes in India are under the age of 18 years. ("Innocence Sacrificed on Tourism Altar", ECPAT Bulletin, October 1996)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- A 1996 survey published in India Today magazine estimated there are between 40,000 and 50,000 child prostitutes in the country, activists now say that figure might have jumped to about 250,000. ("Children For Sale", Asia Week, 1 March 1996)
- Conservative estimates say some 300,000 children are involved in the sex industry. ("Six foreigners charged in India child sex case", The Nation, 18 October 1996, reprinted in ECPAT Bulletin, October 1996)
- Between 2,000 and 5,000 children are sent across the border to India for prostitution every year. (Kota Neelima, "Young sex workers are costly commodity", ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- An estimated 400 sex workers came from Bangladesh every month and about 5,000 came from Nepal every year. (Kota Neelima, "Young sex workers are a costly commodity", ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996, citing Indrani Sinha of SANLAAP India)
- 500,000 girls work as sex workers. (UNICEF, Atlas of South Asian Children and Women, 1996)
- The average age of the Nepalese girls entering an Indian brothel is said to be 10-14 years, some 5,000 to 7,000 of them being trafficked between Nepal and India annually. (UNICEF India, Richard Young, "Understanding Underlying Factors", Child Workers in Asia, January-June 1996)



# Child Prostitution: Continued...

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- Every year 5,000 to 7,000 Nepalese girls are trafficked to India. An estimated 40,000 to 45,000 of these girls are in Bombay brothels and also nearly an equal number of them are in Calcutta. (Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Action, The Flesh Trade Report, 1995-1996)
- Nepalese social workers estimate the number of Nepalese girls and women working in Indian brothels at about 200,000, and believe that between 5,000 and 7,000 new Nepalese end up in Indian brothels every year. (Human Rights Watch/Asia, Rape and Profit, June 1995)
- There were an estimated 400,000-500,000 child prostitutes in 1991. (Human Rights Watch)



# Child Prostitution: Local Statistics

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- Half of 100,000 girl prostitutes between 10-14 in Bombay are from Nepal and kept in brothels against their will. (Penelope Saunders, "Sexual Trafficking and Forced Prostitution of Children", 29 October 1998)
- In Bombay, India, at least half of the city's 100,000 prostitutes are believed to be Nepalese girls. (ILO-IPEC, Usha D. Acharya, Country Report: Nepal, October 1998)
- The number of Nepalese girls and women engaged in prostitution in Calcutta exceeds 27,000, in Delhi it is more than 21,000, in Gorakhpur it is 4,700, and in Banaras it is 3,480. (ILO-IPEC, Usha D. Acharya, Country Report: Nepal, October 1998)



# Child Prostitution:

## Local Statistics Continued...

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- 10,000 Bangladeshi children are in brothels in Bombay and Goa, India. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Human smuggling from Bangladesh at alarming level", Reuters, 26 May 1997, citing Trafficking Watch Bangladesh)
- Approximately 20,000 or 20% of women in prostitution in Bombay are under 18 years of age. (CATW Fact Book, citing Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption are Leading to an AIDS Catastrophe", The Nation, 8 April 1996)
- A NGO states that the number of children in flesh trade is increasing by 8-10% every year ("The Young and the Damned", The Week, 4 August 1996, reprinted in ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996)



# Child Prostitution:

## Local Statistics Continued...

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- 10,000-12,000 Bangladeshi children are thought to be employed in the brothels of Bombay and West Bengal. (An Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, submission to the UN CRC, 1997, citing UNICEF, The Progress of the Nations, 1995)
- About 45,000 Nepalese girls are in the brothels of Bombay and 40,000 in Calcutta. (CATW Fact Book, citing UBINIG, Trafficking in Women and Children: The Cases of Bangladesh, 1995, citing women's groups in Nepal)



# Child Prostitution:

## Local Statistics Continued...

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- A report of the Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution, published in May 1994 says that 12 to 15% of the prostitutes in Mumbai, Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore are children. It is estimated that 30% of the prostitutes in these cities are aged below 20 and nearly half of them had become commercial sex workers when they were minors. 86% of the prostitutes come from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Conservative estimates put the number of children in India suffering commercial sex abuse at 300,000. ("The Young and the Damned", The Week, 4 August 1996, reprinted in ECPAT Bulletin, July 1996)



# Child Prostitution:

## Local Statistics Continued...

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- Dr. I.S. Gilada, General Secretary of the Indian Health Organisation(IHO), estimated in various studies conducted between 1985 and 1994 that there were between 70,000 and 100,000 prostitutes in Bombay, 100,000 in Calcutta, 40,000 in Delhi, 40,000 in Pune, and 13,000 in Nagpur. (Human Rights Watch/Asia, Rape and Profit, June 1995)



# Child Prostitution: Adult Statistics

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- There are over 200,000 Nepalese prostitutes. (ILO-IPEC, Mainstreaming Gender in IPEC Activities, 1999)
- 200,000 to over 250,000 Nepalese women and girls are already in Indian brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing Soma Wadhwa, "For sale childhood", Outlook, 1998)
- 20%-30% of commercial sex workers in India have been trafficked from Nepal. (World Vision, David Westwood, Child Trafficking in Asia, 1998)
- The Indian Social Welfare Board estimates that there are 500,000 foreign prostitutes in India of which 1% are from Bangladesh. And 2.7% of prostitutes in Calcutta alone are from Bangladesh. (CATW Fact Book, citing CEDAW Report: Bangladesh, 1 April 1997)



# Child Prostitution:

## Adult Statistics Continued...

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- 30,000 Bangladeshi women are in the brothels of Calcutta, India. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Human Smuggling from Bangladesh at alarming level", Reuters, 26 May 1997)
- 2.5% of prostitutes in India are Nepalese, and 2.7% are Bangladeshi. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Devadasi System Continues to Legitimise Prostitution: The Devadasi Tradition and Prostitution", Times of India, 4 December 1997)
- 160,000 Nepalese women are held in India's brothels. (CATW Fact Book, citing SANLAAP India, Indrani Sinha, "Paper on Globalization & Human Rights")
- At least 2,000 women are in prostitution along the Baina beachfront in Goa. (CATW Fact Book, citing Frederick Moronha, India Abroad News Service, 9 August 1997)



# Child Prostitution:

## Adult Statistics Continued...

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- Every day, about 200 girls and women in India enter prostitution, 80% of them against their will. (CATW Fact Book, citing CEDPA and PRIDE, "Devadasi System Continues to Legitimise Prostitution: The Devadasi Tradition and Prostitution", Times of India, 4 December 1997)
- The brothels of India hold between 100,000 and 160,000 Nepalese women and girls. (CATW Fact Book, citing Gustavo Capdevila, IPS, 2 April 1997, citing Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Special Report on Violence Against Women)
- There are more than 100,000 women in prostitution in Bombay, Asia's largest sex industry centre. (CATW Fact Book, citing Robert I. Freidman, "India's Shame: Sexual Slavery and Political Corruption Are Leading to an AIDS Catastrophe", The Nation, 8 April 1996)



# Child Prostitution: Adult Statistics Continued...

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- There are an estimated 50,000 devadasis in the country. (ECPAT Newsletter, No.15, January 1996)
- India, along with Thailand and the Philippines, has 1.3 million children in its sex-trade centres. (CATW Fact Book, citing Soma Wadhwa, "For Sale: Childhood", Outlook, 1998)
- Nepalese social workers estimate that the number of Nepalese girls and women now working in Indian brothels at about 200,000 and believe that between 5,000 and 7,000 new Nepalese end up in Indian brothels every year. (Human Rights Watch/Asia, Rape and Profit, June 1995)



# Child Prostitution: General Observations

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- Nepalese girls as young as 11, 12, 13 years old have been trafficked into India to work as prostitutes. (Will Dunham, "U.S. grapples with 'modern-day slavery'", 1 September 2000, reprinted in Stop Trafficking Archive, September 2000)
- In India, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu are considered "high supply zones" for women in prostitution. Bijapur, Belgaum and Kolhapur are common districts from which women migrate to the big cities, as part of an organized trafficking network. (CATW Fact Book, citing Meena Menon, "Women in India's Trafficking Belt", 30 March 1998, citing the Central Social Welfare Board)
- Human Rights Watch reported that the practice of dedicating or marrying young, pre-pubescent girls to a Hindu deity or temple as servants of god, devadasis, continue in several southern states, including Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Devadasis may not marry. They are taken from their families and are required to provide sexual services to priests and high caste Hindus. Reportedly, many eventually are sold to urban brothels. (US Dept of State, Human Rights Report, 1999)



# Child Prostitution:

## General Observations Continued...

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- India is one of the favoured destinations of paedophile sex tourists from Europe and the United States. (CATW Fact Book, citing "Global law to punish sex tourists sought by Britain and EU", The Indian Express, 21 November 1997)
- The trafficking of girls from Nepal into India for the purpose of prostitution is probably the busiest 'slave traffic' of its kind anywhere in the world. (CATW Fact Book, citing Tim McGirk, "Nepal's Lost Daughters", 27 January 1997)
- India's child sex industry is the second largest in the world after the Philippines. ("Six foreigners charged in India child sex case", The Nation, 18 October 1996, reprinted in ECPAT Bulletin, October 1996)



# Child Prostitution:

## General Observations Continued...

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- There could be a few hundred thousand Bangladeshi girls in various houses of prostitution in India. (Brother Jarlath de Souza, "Trafficking in Children: Bangladesh", Child Workers in Asia, July-September 1996)
- Most child prostitutes in the cities hail from the surrounding rural areas, although considerable numbers are trafficked over longer distances. (UNICEF India, Richard Young, "Understanding Underlying Factors", Child Workers in Asia, January-June 1996)
- Nepal appears to be the most significant, identifiable source of child prostitutes for Indian brothels. Thousands of Nepalese females under the age of 20 have been identified in India by various studies. (UNICEF India, Richard Young, "Understanding Underlying Factors", Child Workers in Asia, January-June 1996)



# Child Prostitution:

## General Observations Continued...

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- In 1994, however, the Government of India estimated that 30% of all prostitutes in six major cities were below the age of 20 and that almost 40% of these prostitutes entered the profession before they were 18 years of age. Anecdotal evidence provided by social workers in Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi supports these figures. The existence of a stable child population among the prostitutes of these cities seems to be a certainty. (UNICEF India, Richard Young, "Understanding Underlying Factors", Child Workers in Asia, January-June 1996)
- Of 1,000 red-light districts all over India, prostitutes are mostly minors often from Nepal and Bangladesh. (CATW-Asia Pacific, Trafficking in Women and Prostitution in the Asia Pacific, 1996)
- Districts bordering Maharashtra and Karnataka, known as the 'devadasi belt', have trafficking structures operating at various levels. Many are devadasis dedicated into prostitution for the goddess Yellamma. In one Karnataka brothel, all 15 girls are devadasis. (CATW Fact Book, citing Meena Menon, "The Unknown Faces")



# Children in Crime:

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- The children are involved in drug trafficking to get money for arms and ammunition. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database, citing a local research project, 1997-1998)



# Child Soldiers:

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- There are child soldiers in every insurgent group in Manipur, including, apparently, children under 15 years of age. The lowest age recorded is 11 years. It is estimated that the number of child soldiers is between 6,000 and 7,500, which is equivalent to around 50% of the total group membership. It is further claimed that the recent trend is to induct more and more girls into insurgency movement in order to avoid suspicion on the hard core activists. The number of girl soldiers is said to be between 900 and 1,000, i.e., 6-7% of child soldiers. (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000, citing a local research project quoted by Rädä Barnen)



# Child Soldiers: Continued....

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- In the Assam insurgency approximately 9-10% of soldiers are girls, numbering 3,000-4,000, with the lowest recorded age at 12 years. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database)
- There are child soldiers in every militant group in Assam viz, Bodoland Liberation Tiger Force, Bodo Security Force and United Liberation Front of Assam. Approximately 50% of all these are children. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database)
- The Nagaland Insurgents which has a strength of 18,000-20,000, has 50-55% of the soldiers below 18 years. The recent trend is to induct more and more girls into insurgency movement in order to avoid suspicion on the hardcore activists. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database)
- There are child soldiers in every insurgent group in Tripura, including children below 15 years. It is estimated that children make up to 50%, i.e. 7,000-8,000, of the total insurgent strength. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database)



# Child Soldiers: Continued....

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- Naxalites have "reportedly begun recruiting boys aged between 8 and 15 years. Boys are recruited to the Bala Sangham, a militant children's organisation based in district towns such as North Telengana " There are reportedly around 75 Bala Sanghams in Andhra Pradesh with over 800 children in their ranks. The People's War Group (PWG) founded the Bala Sanghams believing that they could train children more effectively to resist police interrogation. Tribal girls are reportedly used as couriers in areas of Adilabad and Dandakarnya. Organisations such as the PWG also reportedly use children to provide food and to deliver ransom notes without arousing police suspicion." (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000, citing Amnesty International, Children in South Asia Securing their Rights, 1 April 1998)



# Child Soldiers: Notes on Government Forces

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- At the Asia-Pacific Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers in May 2000, the representative of the state government of Jammu and Kashmir denied the involvement of children in Village Defence Committees (VDC). He acknowledged that there may have been some instances of young boys taking up arms to defend themselves under attack, but that there was "no policy to encourage young boys to become members of the VDCs." (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000)
- The Indian Government claims that even though children under 18 join the armed forces, they are not formally enrolled into regular service before the age of 18. It has been pointed out, though, that since there is no systematic birth registration in some of the rural areas it is sometimes difficult to prove one's real age. Accordingly, there is a small chance that underage children will be recruited into the defence forces as well as the paramilitary services. (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000, citing Rädä Barnen, citing a research)



# Child Soldiers: Notes on Opposition Groups

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- A local survey presented to the Asia-Pacific Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers reported 28 children arrested or injured and 10 children killed in Manipur between January and May 2000. (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001 citing Radda Barnen, Children of War Newsletter, 2/00)
- In April 2000, Kashmir's first suicide bomber turned out to be 18 years old and the number of young Kashmiris crossing the line to receive training in Pakistan apparently rose sharply in 1999. (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001)
- Two groups of 23 teenagers between the ages of 14 to 18 were intercepted by the army in Kupwara and Gure sectors, while the state police detained a group of nine from Poonch sector in Jammu region. (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001 citing Joshi, A., "J&K teenagers taking to terrorism", The Hindustan Times, 17/9/98)



# Child Soldiers: Notes on Opposition Groups

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- One local survey in the north east estimated that up to half of all combatants in most groups are children, with the recruitment of girls increasing - sometimes for sexual services and domestic labour - to about 6 or 7% of these children. The lowest age reported is 11. (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001 citing Radda Barnen)
- A journalist who spent two weeks in April-May 2000 with the NSCN-IM (National Socialist Council of Nagaland) faction reported that of the 250-300 troops in the group, "the vast majority were children between 13 and 17 years of age" (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001 citing Radda Barnen, quoting Peter Standberg)
- The All Tripura Tribal Force (ATTF), and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) are fighting in Tripura against the immigration of Bengali people. Children have reportedly been used as soldiers by armed groups in Tripura. (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001 citing Radda Barnen)



# Child Soldiers: Notes on Opposition Groups

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- Amnesty International has found that Naxalites have "reportedly begun recruiting boys aged between 8 and 15. The boys usually come from scheduled castes or tribes, or socially or economically disadvantaged classes. (CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers - 2001 citing AI, Children in South Asia Securing Their Rights, Report ASA 04/01/98)
- During the Asia-Pacific Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers, a representative of the Jammu and Kashmir state government claimed that none of the terrorist groups had been using young children and that during the entire insurgency there had only been a few instances of children being 'bribed' to commit violence or being intercepted at the border by security forces. (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000)
- Apart from the United Liberation Front of Assam and the National armed groups, "children, especially boys, are targeted by soldiers who believe that these boys might be supporters or future members of armed groups." (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000, citing Amnesty International, Report, 1999)



# Child Soldiers: Notes on Opposition Groups

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- At one camp of Lashkar-e-Taiba 200 young militants with Kalashnikov assault rifles learned how to conduct an ambush. The young fighters, ranging age from 17 to 25, are often from poor families and some join despite objections from their families. (CSUCS, Asia Report, July 2000, citing "Where militants sharpen their knives", The Hindu, 31 May 1999)
- In Assam hundreds of children have been separated from their families, physically abused, exploited and abducted into militant groups. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database, citing Mr. Sancerre Barma, "Impact of conflict and insurgency on children in Assam" December 1997)
- Kashmir insurgents with over 180 different groups, has children below 18 years. (Far Eastern Economic Review, 11 April 1996, citing Uppsala University, The Conflict Data Project)
- The Child's Rights Bulletin, July-September 1993, reports that Kashmir insurgency groups recruited young boys to throw hand grenades at Indian soldiers and that boys, 11-12 years old, were taught to use AK-47 assault rifles. (Rädda Barnen, Childwar database)