Monseur le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et de la Coopération

...
Le Maroc, comme le reste du monde, s'efforce de prévenir et de punir les formes d'exploitation sexuelle de mineurs, que ce soit dans le cadre de la domesticité, dans les milieux professionnels, ou dans les environnements de loisirs. Les lois en vigueur prévoient des sanctions sévères pour les auteurs de ces actes.

Cependant, le gouvernement marocain a encore du chemin à faire pour assurer une protection effective des mineurs, notamment en matière de formation et de soutien pour les travailleurs sociaux et les autorités compétentes.

Recommandations:

- Augmenter la sensibilisation et la formation des travailleurs sociaux et des éducateurs sur les formes d'exploitation sexuelle, en particulier pour les mineurs.
- Renforcer les sanctions pour les auteurs de ces actes.
- Assurer une meilleure coordination entre les différents acteurs concernés.
- Étendre les services de soutien aux victimes et à leurs familles.
Morocco is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Some Moroccan girls as young as 8-years-old are recruited to work as maids in other and become victims of forced labor, experiencing confinement of wages, threats, manipulation on movement and physical and psychological abuse. However, an NGO reports that there are cases of child labor has decreased since 2003, in part due to government-funded programs provided in primary school and awareness programs funded by UN agencies and NGOs. Some Moroccan boys experience forced labor while employed as apprentices in the agriculture and construction industries and in mechanic shops. Some men, women, and children, primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, enter Morocco voluntarily, and illegally, with the assistance of smuggling services. Some of the women and older girls are also trafficked into prostitution. In addition, forced labor is common service. International organizations and local NGOs report that unaccompanied children and women from Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nigeria are highly vulnerable to sex trafficking and forced labor in Morocco. Women from Sira, vettaks, the Philippines, and Vietnam are recruited for employment as domestic workers in Morocco; some report being subjected to forced labor, demeaning employment of wages, withholding of passports, and physical abuse at the hands of their employers. Criminal networks operating in the northern border town of Oujda on the Algerian border harass unorganized foreign migrant women into prostitution and begging. These networks also reportedly force children into begging. Some female migrants working in Oujda, particularly Egyptians, are forced into prostitution once they reach Europe. There is some child sex tourism committed by foreigners in major cities in Morocco. Due to conflicts in the region, Morocco experienced a small decrease in the number of irregular migrants and asylum seekers in 2018, including from Syria and the Central African Republic. Many migrants are vulnerable to trafficking in Morocco.

Moroccan men, women, and children are recruited by forced labor and sex trafficking in Europe and the Middle East. Moroccan women are forced and subjected primarily in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Syria, and European countries. Some of them are exploited in prostitution, forced labor, and domestic abuse. Recruiters reportedly offer Moroccan men jobs in the European Union. But since the victims' passports and national identity cards are taken away upon arrival, they are often forced to work in Europe by their employers and are subsequently forced to sex work. The Government of Morocco does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Despite these efforts, the government did not demonstrate evidence of increased efforts to address human trafficking since the previous reporting period. Therefore, Morocco is placed on Tier 2: Very Low. Moroccan law does not provide for all forms of human trafficking and continued to confront human trafficking and human smuggling. The government did not demonstrate progress in investigating, prosecuting, convicting, and adjudicating trafficking offenders and provided limited law enforcement data. It continued to fail to identify or provide adequate protective services to trafficking victims in 2018, and it failed to take sufficient action to protect other survivors provided by the society. Furthermore, it did not make progress in convicting trafficking victims among vulnerable groups, especially the
Sub-Saharan migrant communities. It also did not ensure that foreign trafficking victims were not subject to arrest,
extradition, and deportation.

Recommendations for Morocco:

Concrete defining and enact legislation that prohibits all forms of trafficking and increases prescribed penalties for
related offenses; ensure that victims are not punished for acts committed as a direct result of being subjected to
human trafficking, such as immigration violations, publicly identify trafficking victims, especially among the
foreign migrant community, and institute a victim identification and referral mechanism to guide estimates in the
standardization and provision of assistance to trafficking victims; provide additional funds to NGOs that provide
specialized services for human trafficking victims, including foreign missions, and retraining of traffickers to these
services providers; significantly increase investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of trafficking offenders, as
well as provision of sufficiently stringent penalties for all forms of human trafficking, clarified from human
smuggling significantly increase law enforcement data collection and reporting, including the disaggregation of
data between human trafficking and human smuggling cases; and conduct public awareness campaigns addressing
effects of trafficking and encouraging child care initiatives.

Proposition:

The government made little progress in its law enforcement response to human trafficking. Morocco lacks an anti-
trafficking law, which required a review mandate to successfully prosecuting human trafficking cases to contributeto
reduction among victims in differentiating human smuggling and human trafficking cases. Hence, its penal code
prohibits forced and labor through Article 467-2, which prescribes punishment of at least three years
imprisonment.

The State can also provide incentives and solutions through Articles 567-480 which provide
protection of at least 10 years of life to human trafficking cases to be charged with special circumstances; the State can also
provide incentives and protection law through Article 567-14 which prescribes
punishment of up to three years for human trafficking cases. The penal code does not specifically define and penalize
human trafficking. Article 12 of Morocco's labor code prohibits forced labor of a worker; the offense is punishable by a fine for the first offense and a jail term of up to three years for subsequent offenses. Penalties for forced child labor under Article 567-65 range
from one to three years' imprisonment. With the exception of the government's awareness campaign for
counter-effects of child exploitation, the penalties are generally insufficiently stringent.

The government did not report any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of sex and labor trafficking offenders, though it reported general data on trafficking victims. It did not have. The did develop, an
effective system to collect and traffick law enforcement data. In January 2014, the media reported that the
Court of Appeals in Agadir sentenced an employee to 22 year's imprisonment for involuntary labor under 14-
year-old workers inside the mail office in March 2013, after traffickingsend guilty to vile and harsh, in
what appeared to be a forced labor case. However, it did provide information regarding the investigation of trafficking offenses.
The government reported cases of trafficking-related offenses from 2011–
the next most recent period for which data was available—excluding exploitation of children for begging and sexual
exploitation, however, the government did not provide details of such cases. The government did not provide additional details about its law enforcement system, and it frequently confused human smuggling and
human trafficking. The government reportedly cooperated with the International government to investigate trafficking allegations made by international domestic workers in Morocco, but the details of these cases were
unknown. The government of Morocco did not report any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of
government employees charged with human trafficking. A foreign Moroccan official and his wife were arrested in the
United States in March 2014 and charged with immigration offenses and one count of money laundering for
commercial advantage and private financial gain, in connection with allegations that they held a woman in their
home as a domestic servant for three years. The government provided multiple training sessions and workshops
for judges, law enforcement, and labor officials on a variety of human trafficking issues. The Ministry of Interior
also continued to provide border guards with trafficking awareness training at the Training Institute for Armed Forces.

Protection

The Moroccan government's efforts to protect victims of trafficking were not substantial; it did not report an identification and removal of victims to all victims of trafficking. The government's priorities of services were limited to providing medical and legal assistance to women who may be trafficking victims. It did not undertake any systematic procedures to identify victims or traffickers and continued to show weak efforts in protecting victims of all forms of trafficking. The government provided limited to no medical or protective services, including shelter, to victims of trafficking—especially foreign victims—and relied heavily on NGOs and charitable organizations to provide such services. The government lacked sufficient and well-trained staff and funding resources to effectively assist victims of trafficking. Some local and international NGOs reported having an active working relationship with local law enforcement officials, who occasionally referred cases of vulnerable women and girls to them, some of whom may be trafficking victims, to local NGOs for assistance.

The government did not provide official statistics on the number of victims of trafficking it identified; however, an international organization reported 46 victims of trafficking during the reporting period, consistent with 28 victims in the previous year. As part of the government's integrated policy initiatives and national strategies for improving migrant workers' integration, the reporting period was focused on the process of providing official status and repatriating migrants to their countries of origin in December 2015. However, some civil society organizations criticized the government for not recognizing the issue's complexity, including the nature of trafficking and unaccompanied minors, through early intervention criteria for eligibility for this program. Unlike international organizations and NGOs, the government's criteria only allow for temporary identity victims among the highly vulnerable groups. The government failed to protect trafficking victims from being prosecuted for crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked. International organizations, NGOs, and civil society groups reported that collective decisions to arrest, detain, and deport illegal foreign migrant workers, including trafficking victims, through illegal street arrest and fines into autonomous cities, sometimes even mandatory, international organizations also reported that Moroccan authorities deported undocumented migrant workers from whom they are trafficking victims, back to the African borders—engaging through violence of violence—with no access to an interpreter, legal services, or communication with the rapid removal of the names of any of them to the African borders, many of which may be underdeveloped, enabling victims to being trafficked.

The government's migration reform efforts reportedly effectively reduced the numbers of undocumented migrants after September 2015. There was no evidence, however, to suggest that the authorities made efforts to identify trafficked victims among these groups and were reported to deport. As Moroccan authorities have largely made no distinction between trafficked and victims, these groups were often deported together.

The Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs (MESA) operated 490 labor inspectors for the entire country, detecting 5,148 labor cases in 2014—the most recent statistics available; MESA had completed 2,029 investigations and identified hundreds of case law cases, but inspections did not identify trafficking victims among the group. The inspectors were linked by investigating officials and did not have local authority to enter homes, preventing them from investigating and identifying instances of child labor or trafficking in domestic service situations. The Ministry of Justice operated units that provided social assistance andfare to police, medical services, and NGOs to women and child victims of domestic violence to significantly reduce foreign and Moroccan trafficking victims, but the government did not provide detailed information on all cases in 2015. The government continued to protect child victims of violence, some of whom may be unaccompanied victims of trafficking, through 24-hour emergency centers and three child protection centers. These centers and NGOs.
however, instead adequate monitoring and oversight services for transferring victims, and it is unclear whether any victims of trafficking received services through the use of these criteria. The government reportedly provided assistance to Moroccan trafficking victims overseas through the issuance of travel documents and provider of transportation some victims; however, the government was unable to provide statistics for the number of victims who received such assistance in the report. In addition to investigating for prosecution, the government does not provide compensation for repatriated Moroccan victims of trafficking. In cooperation with an international organization, the government provided assistance for over 200 migrants to be resettled in 2019, an international organization identified 60 of these migrants as trafficking victims. The government reportedly encouraged police to undertake investigations against trafficking offenders by providing training; however, it did not provide evidence that any victims were resettled in this reporting period. The government did not offer legal assistance to the majority of Moroccan victims of trafficking to countries where they might face retribution or threats. Because No. 1-25-194 provided greater opportunities to victims and refugees that faced ongoing threats, lost their international protection due to the application of the 1951 Agreement, the government did not see a decrease in trafficking.