A Finger in the Wound- Human Trafficking for Organs from Migrants and Refugees Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Professor of Medical Anthropology University of California, Berkeley, USA





Pope Francis Calls for Migrant Protection in Morocco



'Human Trafficking is an open wound on the on the body of society and a scourge upon the body of Christ'

- Pope Francis Addressing the Conference on Combating Human Trafficking April 2014



A Finger in the Wound



The world is facing catastrophic migrations caused by political turmoil, war, environmental disasters, climate warms, floods



MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ARE IN GRAVE DANGER OF ORGAN TRAFFICKING

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has filed 700 incidents of organ trafficking among migrants and refugees from Africa and the Middle East, especially from Syria

African and Bedouin migrants in Egypt sold their kidneys to pay for passage to Europe - 2018 UN report.



Nearly 4.3 million Syrian refugees are registered with the UN, a number not seen for decades. One in five Syrians is a refugee in the neighboring countries Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, while approximately 6.5 million Syrians are refugees within their own country. Syrians have been targeted By organ traffickers for more than a decade

Syrian refugees have long been a target of organ trafficking

Raïd, 19 year old Syrian refugee was recruited to sell his kidney to help his family in a detention camp in Lebanon. The trafficker promised to help Raid after he paid him his kidney money. But once he had the cash the trafficker said: 'I don't care whether you live or die'.



BORIS Wolfman a kidney trafficker was arrested in Turkey in 2015 – He worked for a criminal syndicate led by Zaki Shapira and Yusef Sonmez . Wolfman recruited Syrian and Palestinian kidney sellers in various detention centers in the middle east and elsewhere



Salah G.,23, a bonded SYRIAN worker for a royal family Qatar was trafficked with the family to the US where he was coerced to give his kidney to a young princess at the Cleveland Clinic

Surgeons hide behind doctor-patient confidentiality

'We cannot share the details of his medical care and treatment, but we are satisfied that Mr. X s medical record is contradictory to his legal statements.'

- Medical Director, Renal Transplant, Cleveland Clinic



Death & Organ Trafficking of Migrants Crossing the US-Mexico Border



US IMMIGRATION Policy: DEATHS in the Land of OPEN GRAVES

ICE policy forces migrants to take hostile paths – where they die easily of dehydration, snake bites, rape and homicides. The rationale of ICE is more deaths will deter migrants from considering the trek. October2000 to 2014: the remains of 2,721 migrant border crossers were found by archeologists in the desert on the US-Arizona border Refugees from Guatemala, Honduras and Salvador are fleeing every day from political chaos, drug trafficking, violence, gangs, and police violence and fear of organ trafficking. Children are among those who die in the attempt



Allegations of Drug and Organ Trafficking in the US-Mexico borderlands

In 2014 Mexico Police arrested members of the Knights Templar, a drug cartel in Michoacán suspected of kidnapping children to harvest their organ - Associated Press · Mar 17, 2014



In 2015 Drug trafficker Gaspar arrested by Mexican police as a leader of an organs trafficking cartel

America's Dirty War Against Migrant Families and their Children



Some 15,000 migrant children have been separated from their parents and placed in detention . US policy is cruel and unusual – a crime against humanity Honduran Migrant Child's Drawing in US Detention Some judges have allowed separated children to be adopted by American families- a new traffic in children



A Moral Abomination US Immigration Separation of Migrant Parents and Caging Migrant <u>Children</u>



A Ray of Light: Sanctuary Cities that ignore US Immigration laws by extending hospitality to migrants and to undocumented persons as in Berkeley, California

Protection of Undocumented Migrants by local governments Catholic churches Medical clinics and hospitals Schools and Universities Hospitality Centers Legal Aid for migrants & Refugees



The University of California Berkeley has admitted 500 new undocumented migrants as students with fellowships

UC Berkeley to allocate \$800K for undocumented students' needs, pending UCOP approval

UCB Chancellor Carol Christ has allocated \$800,000 for grants for migrant students



BY ELENA AGUIRRE | STAFF

LAST UPDATED FEBRUARY 11, 201

y Tweet

UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ has promised to establish a new space on campus for undocumented students by early March.

Organ Trafficking is the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons who have been trafficked for the purpose of organ removal by means of threat, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or exploitation of vulnerability, or receiving benefits by a third party [a broker] for the purpose of exploitation via the removal of organs for transplantation



Transplant Trafficking Requires

- Patients willing to travel great distances and face adverse medical and legal consequences
- Desperate kidney sellers
- Traffickers: Organ Brokers, Kidney Traffickers
- Complicit Hospitals, blood labs
- Insurance companies who cover transplant tours
- Lax and indifferent Regulatory Agencies
- Police and Military Protection
- ****SURGEONS:** Who Has the Knife?

SUPPLY & DEMAND

WANTED: "Kidney Donor-- healthy, white , male 20-30, non-smoker, blood group O positive. Donor Suitably Rewarded- Reply - Box 202, Jerusalem)"

FOR SALE: "I, Manuel da Silva, 38, father of 3, am ready to sell any organ of which I have two and the removal of which will not cause my immediate death " - <u>Diario de Pernambuco</u>, (Recife, Brazil)



Transplant Tourists- Should they be Held Culpable?

Moshe Tati died 4 years after his illegal transplant in Turkey . Dov Rosen purchased a kidney from a Roma (Gypsy) in Romania.

'What's a Kidney? What's A Chicken? We buy them and we consume them. The man who sold me his kidney would have sold me his son. These are not moral people'.



Surgeon and Organs Trafficker- Untouchable

Dr. Yusuf Sonmez, Dr. Vulture, is proud of his crimes.. He claims to have saved the lives of more than 2,000 kidney patients who had paid him \$180,00 US dollars for their illegal transplants. No concern for his trafficked kidney sellers – "They are not my patients"- they are contract workers'. He is wanted by Interpol, and the International War Tribunal in the Hague. He has always always escaped prosecution.



A Victim of Sonmez: Yilmaz Altun, was trafficked to the Medicus Clinic in Kosovo . He collapsed in the airport in Pristina in 2008. He told airport police that a Turkish surgeon had taken his kidney. He refused help and we do not know if he lived or died...



Delayed Justice. Organ Trafficker Moshe Harel Arrested April 3 2019 in Cyprus years after being sought by Interpol for his role in the Medicus Organ Trafficking scandal in Kosovo in 2008



Commodifying Lives and Bodies

"Sending six domestic water filters – first one should arrive at X airport tomorrow for pick up"

 Fax sent to a US transplant surgeon by an Israeli kidney broker, describing the arrival of 6 trafficked kidney sellers to arrive by plane to be used in illegal transplants

Sum of the Parts

Professional brokers often connect sellers with buyers and negotiate prices. These brokers sometimes travel extensively to arrange the most lucrative deals. The fees kidney sellers receive around the world vary widely.



Nancy Scheper-Hughes is professor of medical anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, and director of Organs Watch, a center that documents the global traffic in organs.





Kidney Trafficking is Largely a Traffic in Young Men

Vladimir was one of 38 young men who were trafficked from rural villages in Moldova. He was only 17 when he agreed to travel to Turkey where his kidney was removed/ he never recovered and his father never forgave him



Vlad's grave in Mingir. His Dad wants to kill the local trafficker



Nículae was trafficked to Turkey from Míngír – he was told by a local doctor that hís síngle kídney was failing



Viorel was angry and wanted to kill the 'dog' of a surgeon who stole his kidney in Istanbul Who is the Perpetrator? Who is the Victim?

Ray recruited his own relatives to sell a kidney in a slum in Manila. But Ray like many local brokers began his career as a kidney seller and he was recruited by a local transplant surgeon



Father Antoine, Russian Orthodox priest in Mingir, Modova



"So many of our young men have sold their kidneys.. In selling their kidneys they also selling their soul. By losing their health and their strength they can no longer pray or keep Lent like good Christians...But I blame the traffickers who deceived them.. May God forgive them"

Prosecutions Are Necessary But Prosecuting Organs Trafficking is a Headache





- Since 2004 several prosecutions of organs trafficking in Brazil, South Africa, India, Moldova, Kosovo, Israel, Egypt, Pakistan, and Costa Rica.
- Difficulties with different jurisdictions, extraditions, treaties, delay and confuse arrests and prosecutions

The Rosenbaum Kidney Trafficking Syndicate



Rosenbaum's Partners in Crime included Zaki Shapira (Israel), Ilan Peri, Sammy Shem-Tov, Tevia, and the "Charity Organization, he founded – Kav L'Chaim


ROSENBAUM CASE: First & only Prosecution of Organ Trafficking in the United States. Levy Isaac Rosenbaum was arrested in 2009 seven years after I informed FBI and Congress about hundreds of illegal transplants Rosenbaum arranged in US hospitals using trafficked 'kidney sellers from Israel's ethnic minorities. He plea bargained for just <u>3 cases</u> of " organ brokering, conspiracy, money laundering but not for Human Trafficking



Rosenbaum with his lawyer Richard Finkel after he was sentenced to 30 months in a low security prison (Fort Dix) followed by s three years of supervised release. He paid a fine of \$5,000 in addition to a forfeiture of \$420,000 – for the 3 cases of his guilty plea bargain. Rosenbaum had trafficked and managed hundreds of illegal transplants in US hospitals



THE DEFENSE ARGUED THAT "THE TRANSPLANT SURGERIES TOOK PLACE IN PRESTIGIOUS HOSPITALS WITH EXPERIENCED AND EXPERT KIDNEY TRANSPLANT SURGEONS. THE RECIPIENTS ARE NOW LEADING FULL AND HEALTHY LIVES" Elan Quick, a Black Hebrew, was recruited by Rosenbaum's trafficked my brokers a in Israel. Elan was unemployed at the time and was deceived by the trafficker who accompanied him to the hospital in Minnesota where he was to 'donate' a kidney to an elderly man. Elan became frightened and told the broker and the surgeons that he did not want to go through the surgery – those were the last words he said. He realized that he realizes that he had been trafficked . In the courtroom in New Jersey the Judge dismissed Elan and said: "You were paid and got something out of the deal". There was compassion for Rosenbaum and no empathy for the victim



International Organized Crime: The Netcare Organ Trafficking Scheme : Israel-Brazil- USA,



BROOKLYN, N.Y.

The husband of a **48-year-old woman** hears about the ring from relatives in Israel. She pays a little more than \$60,000 for the kidney.

Kidney Trafficking

A Brooklyn woman received a kidney in South Africa from a Brazilian man as part of a global chain of organ traffickers. RECIFE, BRAZIL Ivan Bonifacio da Silva, a Brazilian, recruits Alberty José da Silva to provide a kidney for \$6,000. He is put in contact with Gedalya Tauber, an intermediary from Israel, and sent to South Africa. TEL AVIV, ISRAEL Ilan Peri, leader of this particular ring, coordinates the kidney exchange, authorities say.

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA Shushan Meir, an Israeli-born South African, is believed to be the liaison between Mr. Peri and St. Augustine's Hospital, where the transplant occurs. Gaddy Tauber, Israeli Organs Broker, recruited more than 50 men from a slum in Recife, Brazil. 38 of them trafficked to Durban, South Africa to supply kidneys for Israeli, European and American transplant tourists.



Joao Cavalcanti and 37 other Brazilians arrived in human bundles from Brazil to South Africa. they were paid \$6,000 - \$8,000 for the kidney removal. A South African Transplant Broker meets Joao at the Durban Airport . Joao and his buddy Eduardo, both are being prepped for the surgery (2003)



Brazil arrested and sentenced Tauber and several other accomplices in Gaddy Tauber was sentenced to 11 years in prison. We met in his jail cell in 2004 and later in Israel in 2009. Gaddy served six years in prison before he escaped to Israel. In 2012 Tauber was arrested by airport police in Rome and was supposedly extradited back to Brazil, but no one knows where he is today....Perhaps Interpol knows the answer



The Israeli trafficker Gaddy Tauber in Brazil with Geremias one of his kidney Sellers. Gaddy Told Gere that he was too smart to be a kidney seller but the young man had a wife and two kids and no home for them.. "I did what any agonized father would do" he told the Judge



Alfonso da Silva was also trafficked to Durban by Gaddy. He and his group were kept in a safe house. His kidney was surgically removed for an American woman who along with 100 other transplant tourists (2001-2003) had St. Augustine hospital . Alfonso was paid just 6,000 . Why wasn't my kidney as good as the sellers from Romania and Israel?





Police Sting: South African Police Close in on the organs traffickers

Captain Helberg and his men stormed the Netcare transplant unit at St. Augustine Hospital and carried away records showing 123 irregular transplants of Israeli, U.S. & European patients using paid kidney providers from Brazil, Moldova, Israel and Romania.

The Charges

101 Counts of: Contravening the 1983 Tissue Act Organized crime and conspiracy Fraud, corruption, money laundering Trafficking minors (4 counts) as kidney providers Physical Assault with grievous bodily harm Culpable homicide

Two of the last Brazilians who underwent kidney removal surgeries were arrested in flight and their kidney cash was taken from them.

They got caught between two police stings one in Brazil and one in South Africa. Their photos were published in NY Times and many other papers. They were humiliated and suffered many consequences.



14 Arrested In the Sale **Of Organs**

police here and in Brazil have arraigned a South African man on charges of selling human body parts in a trans-Atlantic organ peddling scheme. So far, 14 people have been arrested in South Africa and Brazil.

old Israeli man, was taken into custody in Durban on Wednesday, five days after receiving a newly transplanted kidney.

the ring canvassed poor neighborhoods for people willing to sell one of their kidneys. Those who agreed were flown to South Africa, where the transplants were performed.

Wilson Damázio, the federal police superintendent in Pernambuco, said at least 30 people there were believed to have donated kidneys in exchange for up to \$10,000, passports and free trips to Durban.

"They're mostly poor people just trying to make a better life for themselves," said Manoel Caetano Cysnaines the selice sectors as in

telephone interview on Thursday that the inquiry, which had been aided by Interpol, was far from over. "Yesterday were the first arrests." she said. "We expect to make more."

She told South African Broadcasting Corporation radio that investigators were looking to nations beyond Brazil, Israel and South Africa.

Here in Johannesburg, The Star reported Thursday that the ring had bought organs for up to \$10,000 and charged recipients as much as \$100.000 The new aponen stated that

Since the arrests in Recife, he said, the police have passed on information to several other states, and it is "quite possible that this network was working all over Brazil."

The two men arrested in South Africa on Wednesday, Agania Robel 42, of Israel and Shushan Meir, 49, an Israeli who has lived in South Africa for 17 years, were freed on about \$800 bail and stripped of their travel documents. They were ordered to return to court in February.

The Surgeons in Durban Got a Stay of Prosecution Between 2001-2003 the surgeons did than 120 transplants at Saint Augustine's Hospital for transplant tourists- they took the kidneys from the men trafficked from Brazil. The local kidney hunter and organs broker pled guilty – the surgeons said they didn't know what was going on in their transplant unit. No one believed their story...



Court hears of complex kidney ruse Intricate syndicate web laid bare

ges under the Human Tiswhich the donors were minors, rime Act for receiving and ting money paid to Net which were the proceeds

Fined According to newspaper reded guilty to ports, the country's largest hostravening sec ital group was fined R20 000 for the operations and R4 milr told the court that lion for taking the money

It also had to pay a R3.8m tion fine, the agreed stor's local rofit Netcare made from the Ziegler kneu

CEO. Richard Friedla In court papers. Netcare im rs charged with ons of the Hu fore acted with common man Tissues Act regarding

gler R50 000, R1 000 for the 50 counts and



NEWS









by the kidney syndicate to find suitable donors. One was an Issaid he had naid \$45 000 for h raeli, Agania Robel, who was a kidney Donor Brazilian Rog kidney recipient. Robel also rio da Silva was allegedly pai \$6,000

tine's, "The paid kidney suppli-Naidoo and medical ers for these operations nitially sourced from Israeli All the charges were ater; as the state was not cruited as their kidneys were to proceed to trial. In Septer obtainable at a much lower cost her this year the ch nst them all, ex vapal. Charges wer

In 2003 Roderick Frank Kimpleaded guilty to his role in 38 illegal kidney transplants. He public knowledg

It is alleged that subsequen vas given a siz to these meetings. Netcare, Isince and fined R250 000. raeli broker Ilan Perry, also a In court vesterday, Sichel said Kimberley, who acted on behalf of Perry, had employed Kallmeyer set up an illegal scheme in which Israeli citi-Ziegler. In Kimberley's guilty plea he named Dickson, Azor, Kallmeyer and Haffejee. They ens in need of kidney trans plants would be brought to employees Lindy Dickson and South Africa for kidney trans-Melanie Azor, who worked at plants performed at St Augus-Ziegler, Robbs, Christopher, the Human Tissues Act, He

citizens, but later Rom

and Bra

urgeons who allegedly persor John Robbs, Dr Neil Christopher and Dr Mahade ogist Dr Jeffrey

meyer, will appear in court

again on December 14 for trial

date for health reasons.

ing kid

Palmer told the court that Dickson had been exempted from attending the next court

According to the charge

Rossi, a witness who worked at

rael to attend meetings to as-

ons on Israeli citizens in Net

care hospitals in South Africa.

sess the feasibility of perform

Netcare as a national trans

sheet, in early 2001 Belin

he lives in Canada. All are on warning and a

also faces the





The South African NETCARE MEDICAL Corporation that provided the surgical operating rooms pled guilty to organs trafficking and they paid a huge penalty. Transplant surgeries were halted. NETCARE STOCKS plummeted



order of a further R3.8m in terms of a plea bargain with the State, ratified by regional court magistrate Kim de Freitas in the commercia? In its written plea, the hospital group firmly implicates others charged with fraud, forgery uttering, assault, and contraventions of

the Human Tissues Act relating to 109 kidney transplant operations done at the hospital in which, it is alleged, poor Brazilians were re-cruited and paid to donate their organs to relatively wealthy Israeli idney patients. The rules were flouted through

Netcare regional director Ian Goble arrives at the Durban commercial crime court yesterday to plead guilty on behalf of the hospital group. The company paid a R4-million fine by cheque, inset false declarations that the donors and recipients were related It is now possible that some of

the others implicated may also at empt to do deals with the National Prosecuting Authority. In return for yesterday's guilty

plea, charges against Netcare chie xecutive officer Richard Friedland were withdrawn Since the first arrests of syndi

cate members and a kidney recipi ent, who all pleaded guilty in 2003. Netcare has consistently denied

Its protests of innocence contin and the following year when its own transplant unit staffers, Lindsay Dickson and Melanie Azor, were arrested along with Hebrew inte reter Samuel Ziegler and medical pecialists Jeffrey Kallmeyer Ariff Haffejee, John Robbs, Neil Christopher, Kapil Satyapal and Mahadey

At that time. Netcare was listed as the complainant in the matter.



The investigating officer, Louis Helberg, left, and specially appointed prosecutor, Robin Palmer, leave the court at the conclusion of proceedings.

Four years later, all charges were provisionally withdrawn because the State was not ready to proceed to trial. In September this year, charges were reinstated against all but Satvapal - and this time the company and its CEO were among the accused.

New on the witness list were Netcare's former national trans-plant co-ordinator, Belinda Rossi, and the syndicate boss, Israeli Ilan

What R7.8m would buy

vitals cost R5 188 a laries of R101 535. rson a year. R7.8m would con Child-care grants At the current dication for 1 447 people for a year hild-care grant of R250 a month a Low-cost houses The maximum co-of a low-cost is R77 000. R7.8m could child, R7.8m would pay the grant for 31 200 children for a month, or 2 600 ay for 101 houses. on for a ve pay for 101 houses. Bulletproof vests R7.8m would pay for 1 950 vests, at R4 000 a vest. Police constables 77 police constables could be hired with annual Child-feeding schemes R7.8m could feed 21 000 children one meal a day fo a year, at a cost of RT a day to feed one

Perry Negotiations between Netthe donors were minors, and care's legal team, Ian Small-Smith and Advocate Mike Hellens, with 91 counts of contravening the Prevention of Organised Crime the investigating officers, Captain Act for receiving and distributing uis Helberg and Warrant Officer money paid to Netcare by Perry and his UDG Medical Services com-Soobs Chetty, and specially appointed prosecutor Robin Palmer pany, which was the proceeds of began a few weeks ago, resulting in a new charge sheet. In the written plea, the hospital

Yesterday, Noble, on behalf of group said its employees, in com-Netcare, pleaded guilty to charges mon purpose with surgeons and under the Human Tissues Act other medical personnel, had not elating to five operations in which only flouted the act, but the health

ministerial guidelines and its own internal rules. The company said it recognised it was in the interests of the community that it should be punished and that this should take place in open court "for society as a whole to come to know and understand that such breaches would not be

fighting initiatives.

t later this month.

tolerated There is a need for the son tence to have a general deterrent effect on the medical fra ternity in particular," it said. In terms of the agreed sen tence, the company was fined R20 000 for the operations and R4 million for taking the money from Perry.

This was paid by bank gua nteed cheque handed to the clerk of the court. This money, like other fines

becomes part of general govent coffers. The R3.8m "confiscation" being the agreed profit the company made from the operations day's trading after its EwaZuh was paid by electronic transfer the asset recovery account, which is used to fund crime The other accused will appear in · Business Report reports that tcare's share price lost more than

ing 15.3 percent by surging from The JSE's all share index gained 1 percent to R15.51 during yester-12 percent during the period. ₩P11

Natal operation was fined R4 mil lion by the Commercial Crimes Court. Before the news broke yes-

PICTURES: BONGANI MBATH

terday, the stock price had been on a tear in the last two months, gain

*Human trafficking for organs from the poor, the distressed, the migrant or the refugee is a form of torture

*Transplant trafficking as well as human trafficking for organs is pure exploitation. It is a heinous crime and a moral outrage

*Pope Francis recognizes the narcissism and greed that are behind this form of human trafficking

* The need for a more modest medicine. The ultimate narcissism is the desire to live forever by whatever means

* Medicalized executions with removal of organs for transplants in China, and later used by ISIS militants in Afghanistan as a crime against humanity The Complicit Surgeons MUST be Held Accountable

The only way to end human trafficking in organs is to hold surgeons and other transplant professionals accountable

After all, who's got the knife?

Ways Forward

- Developing better technologies to identify and distinguish victims, perpetrators, collaborators, and by-standers
- Holding the institutional perpetrators hospital administrators, insurance companies, and outlaw transplant surgeons accountable
- Reparations & Restitution for the victims of human trafficking for organs
- Trafficked persons need to be protected from retaliatory violence

Future Solutions

Ethical transplants that views their profession as a site of social solidarity, equity, social justice, dignity with compassion for the patient as well as for trafficked kidney sellers

Research toward bio-engineered kidneys

Saving bodies by Saving Mother Earth –Many forms of kidney disease are the result of poor diets, polluted water, toxic waste, and environmental degradation.