



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



Oral Statement

For the 24th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

19 September 2012

Item 6 of the agenda: Consideration of the UPR report for Germany

Speaker: Budi Tjahjono

Thank you Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI) and VIVAT International commend the commitment of the German Federal Government in addressing human rights situation, especially related to the issue of trafficking of persons. We also commend the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. We also welcome the acceptance of the UPR recommendations on protection for all victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.¹

In January 2002, the German Federal Government adopted the Act Regulating the Legal Situation of Prostitutes (Prostitution Act) which aims to remove the immoral label of prostitution, regulating it, and improve prostitutes' social and working conditions. However, we observed today that the working conditions of prostitution in Germany remain deplorable. Coming from poor and disadvantaged families, they are often victims of human trafficking. In some cases, due to fear, they pretend to have agreed voluntarily to prostitution.

They are also subject to complete control through an elaborate system of video cameras and security personnel; their working condition is often in contradiction with their dignity as human being, for example some of them have to work up to sixteen hours a day. Ninety five percent (95%) of women in prostitution fulfil the definition of forced prostitution. However, due to their lack of choice, they have accepted this condition and easily accustomed to it, so as not to regard themselves as victims. It is therefore not surprising that only 610 victims of forced prostitution were registered in 2010 according to the statistics of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Therefore we recommend the German Federal Government to:

- Take concrete measures to prevent prostitution from becoming a vehicle for exploitation and other forms of slavery;
- Take steps aimed at formally protecting victims of trafficking, including granting temporary or permanent residence based on humanitarian and compassionate factors as stipulated in the article 7 of Palermo Protocol.
- Allocate adequate financial resources to ensure the consistent assistance and protection for victims of trafficking.

Thank you.

¹ Recommendation 124.138 by Liechtenstein.