

Significant Role of Administrative Control Authority

Egypt's Success Against Human Trafficking



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The world faces the threat of transnational organized crime, namely human trafficking, which is a modern form of slavery. This crime primarily involves the exploitation of a weaker party by a stronger one, often in situations of severe need. Human trafficking generates enormous profits for its perpetrators, making it the third-largest criminal enterprise globally, after arms smuggling and drug trafficking. Consequently, it has become one of the most widespread and dangerous international crimes. Global economic crises, wars, and conflicts in many regions contribute to the growth of this crime. Poverty, lack of opportunities, and dire need all provide fertile ground for its expansion.

There is no doubt that the growth of this crime is also closely linked to the spread of corruption. Egypt has recognized the danger of human trafficking and has adopted a comprehensive vision to combat both illegal migration and human trafficking, focusing on criminal justice and human rights protection. Egypt joined all relevant international agreements early on, such as the Convention to Combat Slavery, the International Labour Organization's Forced Labour Convention No. 29 of 1930, the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography of 2000, and the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Egypt's commitment to these international treaties was crowned by its early accession to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000 and its accompanying protocols on preventing, suppressing, and punishing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and combating the smuggling of migrants by land, sea, and air, with a focus on upholding and protecting human rights for all citizens and residents, both Egyptians and foreigners.

Egypt has established an institutional mechanism to enhance coordination among national agencies involved in combating this crime by creating a ministerial national committee in 2007. This committee drafted Law No. 64 of 2010 on combating human trafficking, one of the first laws of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa. This law aims to combat this crime, provide a deterrent for criminals, and ensure the protection of victims. The law also acknowledges the link between this crime and corruption by imposing harsher penalties on perpetrators if the offender is a public official or someone tasked with a public service and commits the crime by exploiting their position.

Since its establishment, the committee has sought to build an integrated strategic framework reflecting Egypt's vision in combating both crimes, aligning with the state's development plans and covering the four internationally recognized pillars of crime prevention: prevention, prosecution, protection, and partnership.

This strategy is fundamentally based on the rule of law and human rights principles and standards.

In this context, the national committee adopted the National Strategy to Combat Illegal Migration 2016-2026, and we are currently completing its third action plan for 2021-2023. Additionally, successive strategies to combat human trafficking have been adopted, with the third National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2022-2026 launched in September 2022.

The National Strategy to Combat Illegal Migration aims to protect those most vulnerable to exploitation by smugglers, including youth, unaccompanied minors, their families, and irregular migrants in Egypt. It also aims to deter and punish human smugglers through stringent measures and penalties, build and strengthen the capacities of government agencies responsible for implementing the strategy, and engage community leaders and civil society.

The third National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking builds on the achievements of previous strategies to develop an integrated system to combat human trafficking, with a particular focus on protection. This is especially relevant given the ongoing economic and social conditions and the political crises affecting the world and the region, which also impact Egypt.**

Intensified Efforts Against Human Trafficking in Egypt (2020-2023)

From 2020 to 2023, the National Committee and its government partners have intensified their efforts to protect Egyptian

Egypt has recognized the severity of the crime of human trafficking and adopted a comprehensive approach to combating the crimes of illegal migration and human trafficking. This approach focuses on the criminal perspective and the protection of human rights. Consequently, Egypt joined all relevant international agreements early on, such as the Convention against Slavery



and foreign citizens from the clutches of human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks. This initiative comes in response to the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects on employment opportunities.

Aligning with international efforts that link combating human trafficking with fighting corruption, special powers to combat human trafficking were added to the Administrative Control Authority (ACA) according to its founding law No. 54 of 1964, as amended by Law No. 207 of 2017. This step represents a qualitative shift in crime-fighting strategies, linking criminal activities with money laundering and corruption. Consequently, the ACA joined the National Coordinating Committee, which now combats illegal migration in addition to human trafficking. The ACA operates directly under the Prime Minister, encompassing 30 ministries and authorities, as well as the three national human rights councils.

Since then, the ACA has achieved significant successes in monitoring, combating, and capturing human trafficking gangs. The cases they have successfully handled have become models for training and awareness programs for law enforcement agencies.

Egypt's vision in combating and monitoring these crimes is based on the understanding that they are linked to corruption and money laundering. The ACA, along with the Central Bank's Anti-Money Laundering Unit, follows up on money laundering cases, contributing to crime reduction and control. Given the immense profits generated by these crimes, it is crucial to find suitable methods to conceal the gains. The ACA plays a vital role in uncovering criminal plans, especially at the near-final stage of the crime, where evidence is concealed, and funds are laundered to appear legitimate.

Moreover, the ACA provides educational support, sharing its unique experience with law enforcement agencies to highlight this critical phase that can lead to uncovering perpetrators.

The National Committee is committed to enhancing partnerships with all national entities involved in combating these crimes, recognizing the importance of cooperation among active institutions in Egypt. Given its responsibility to develop training programs and strengthen the capabilities of those combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling, the National Committee signed a cooperation protocol with the ACA in 2022 to implement joint training and awareness activities. The Anti-Corruption Academy plays a crucial role in supporting this collaboration, promoting administrative governance and sound leadership principles to achieve sustainable development as per Egypt's Vision 2030. This initiative is based on the ACA's reputation for relying on highly trained personnel and its readiness to contribute effectively to the state's development plans.

The partnership between the National Committee and the ACA stands out as a successful model of national cooperation. The National Committee relies on the ACA to respond to international reports and surveys related to combating illegal migration and human trafficking. Additionally, the National Committee, in collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Academy, conducts training courses for ACA members on human trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes, enhancing their understanding of these crimes' components, international legal framework, and the human rights aspect in combating them. The Academy also hosts numerous training sessions organized by the National Committee for targeted groups such as media professionals and labor inspectors.

As part of its efforts to develop awareness materials and lectures for all entities involved in monitoring and combating these crimes, the committee enlists experts to present practical, real-world scenarios. The ACA has significantly contributed in this regard, with its representatives delivering practical lectures in workshops on "mock trials for migrant smuggling and human

Egypt's vision in the field of combating and monitoring is based on the understanding that these crimes are linked to corruption and money laundering. The Administrative Control Authority, along with the Anti-Money Laundering Unit of the Central Bank, uniquely monitors money laundering cases, contributing to the reduction and containment of these crimes.



The national strategy to combat illegal migration aims to protect the groups most vulnerable to exploitation by smugglers, including young people, unaccompanied children, their families, and those entering Egypt illegally. It also seeks to deter and punish brokers and traffickers of illegal migration through stringent measures and penalties.

trafficking cases" for law enforcement agencies from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice, and the Public Prosecution.

Among the topics of cooperation between the ACA and the National Committee is the issue of new forms of human trafficking. Criminals and those with ill intent continually evolve their methods to trap victims, using the latest electronic means to achieve their goals.

It is worth noting that criminal gangs use these techniques both domestically and internationally. There are numerous false advertisements for job opportunities in Egypt and abroad, and many unlicensed employment offices engage in all forms of exploitation of Egyptians and foreign residents in Egypt. These exploitative practices include granting travel visas or providing fake employment contracts, and many instances of blackmailing inexperienced women by unscrupulous individuals. The availability of monitoring and deterrence measures serves as an ideal means to protect individuals and society from these evils.

The Administrative Control Authority (ACA) has also focused on a crucial legislative aspect: the protection of witnesses and whistleblowers reporting corruption crimes. This is considered a key element in encouraging citizens to report these covert crimes that criminals strive to hide from law enforcement agencies. The aforementioned draft law is still under study and drafting.

The cooperation between the ACA and the National Committee extends beyond the local level to regional and international levels, aiming to learn from successful models in monitoring and combating these crimes and to share Egypt's pioneering experience with sister Arab and African countries. The ACA participated in the "Regional Conference on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Related to Investigating and Prosecuting Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling" held in Sharm El Sheikh in July 2023. The conference aimed to support participating countries from West and North Africa in their efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling, and sought to enhance the collective capacities of participating countries to combat these heinous crimes by addressing the growing challenges posed by human trafficking

Participants in the Workshop on "Enhancing the Capacity of Labor Inspectors to Identify and Refer Victims of Human Trafficking" at EACA Academy

The Administrative Control Authority has achieved significant successes in monitoring, combating, and apprehending human trafficking gangs. The cases it successfully handled have become exemplary models used in training and awareness programs for law enforcement agencies.

and migrant smuggling.

Additionally, the ACA participated in several field visits, including a high-level visit to Spain with various national entities such as the Ministry of Interior, the Public Prosecution, the Ministry of State for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs, the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Unit, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the National Council for Human Rights, and the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. This visit aimed to learn about the Spanish experience in monitoring and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling as part of the "Migration Governance through Institutional Support" project funded by the European Union in cooperation with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

The ACA also participated in a visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands as part of the Human Trafficking Combat Program in

The model of cooperation between the National Committee and the Administrative Control Authority is considered one of the successful examples of national cooperation and partnerships. The National Committee utilizes the expertise of the Administrative Control Authority in responding to international reports and questionnaires related to combating the crimes of illegal migration and human trafficking. Additionally, the National Committee collaborates with the Anti-Corruption Academy to conduct training courses for the Authority's members on human trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes.

Egypt, implemented in cooperation with the International Labour Organization in Egypt and funded by the U.S. Department of State. The visit aimed to learn about best practices and exchange experiences regarding the management of shelters for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, as well as the protection and response to victims. The Netherlands is recognized globally for its leading role in combating human trafficking. This visit contributed to the transfer and exchange of technical knowledge on crime combating, familiarization with internal work regulations, and coordination and networking with entities providing social, psychological, and health services to victims and mechanisms for integrating victims into society. The delegation included national officials from the technical secretariat of the National Committee and the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Finally, the ACA participated in a visit to Armenia to learn about best practices and exchange experiences in the field of migrant return and reintegration.

Additionally, the ACA was part of the Egyptian delegation in a tripartite roundtable that included Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, with the participation of Bahrain. The roundtable aimed to exchange experiences and best practices in combating human trafficking. The discussions during the session focused on various aspects of combating human trafficking, including prosecuting offenders, preventing impunity, and the role of law enforcement agencies in protecting victims and witnesses. Each participating country presented an overview of its role in combating human trafficking, ensuring victims' rights, guaranteeing fair trials, and coordinating efforts at the national and regional levels. The discussions also highlighted the importance of cooperation among criminal justice actors at both national and regional levels.

In conclusion, it can be said that the close cooperation between the National Coordinating Committee and the Administrative Control Authority achieves integration in relevant areas, particularly in combating illegal migration and human trafficking. This collaboration aligns with the main pillars of the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030 and fulfills its objectives, especially those related to the legislative and judicial infrastructure supporting anti-corruption efforts and ensuring swift justice. Additionally, it focuses on building the capacities of entities capable of combating corruption and enforcing the law, creating a society aware of the dangers of corruption and capable of fighting it, and enhancing effective international and regional cooperation in combating corruption.