



### Excerpt from the book:

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**Cautionary note:** The terms 'child prostitution' and 'prostituted children' are used in this text to denote children that are sexually exploited and sexually trafficked. The connotative manner in which these definitions are perceived and analyzed may differ due to linguistic, cultural, and perceptual differences.

## 2016-2017 LEGAL RESPONSES

*The overview of current worldwide judicial affairs, made through the vigilance of Fondation Scelles' information research center: Observatoire international de l'exploitation sexuelle (International Observatory on Sexual Exploitation), is, more than ever, indicative of the scale and variety of current forms of sexual exploitation. This selection of judicial responses from around the world is intended to illustrate the commonalities that characterize the judicial and police struggle against sexual exploitation today.*

The reports of trials and investigations, widely covered on the news over the 24 month period discussed here, January 2016-December 2017, certainly do not constitute an exhaustive account of reality since they only include cases brought to the attention of repressive authorities and handled by them. Nevertheless, the hundreds of reported cases reflect the true reality of a crime that aspires to show only its commercial side and hide the violence of the situations and damages done to people.

Public coverage of the most significant cases will not replace the necessary case-specific analysis whose comprehensive understanding is not possible without court records that are only accessible to involved

parties. This demonstrates the interest, for victims and associations that fight against sexual exploitation, to become civil parties wherever the law of the country allows. One should not be struck by the importance of the cases presented here; they represent only a small minority of the proceedings opened each year around the world concerning the legal classification of human trafficking and procuring.

However, there is a recurrence of three phenomena: the dizzying increase in cases of prostitution networks of vulnerable people, including many children; the almost systematic internationalization of prostitution organizations; and the constant use of digital technology.

## Global overview of high-profile cases in 2016-2017<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>January 2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cancellation of a hunting trip that offered prostituted persons for the journey home (“Romantic Week End Hunting”) (<i>Austria</i>)</li> <li>- Indictment of five men of Chinese descent managing massage parlors in Toulouse via internet (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- A special unit (Dolphin Force) dismantles a child prostitution network in Lahore; some children did not survive the abuse (<i>India</i>)</li> <li>- In Virginia, a procurer exploiting 55 women is sentenced to 30 years in prison (<i>USA</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>February 2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police raids of more than 30 brothels exploiting migrant women, resulting from complaints from 20 organizations (<i>Morocco</i>)</li> <li>- A young woman estimates having been raped more than 40,000 times during her ten years of exploitation in Mexico and the USA (<i>Mexico</i>)</li> <li>- 27 sex buyers, arrested under the new law criminalizing buying prostitution, filed a complaint against the police for misconduct and violation of their “sex buyers rights” (<i>Canada</i>)</li> <li>- Three brothers in the Rotherham network who exploited dozens of underage girls were sentenced to 19-35 years in prison (<i>UK</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>March 2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the explosion of the number of prostituted children, the police decide to systematically arrest the sex buyers (800 arrests) (<i>Tanzania</i>)</li> <li>- In Valence, a 90-year-old man was convicted for repeat offenses of child sex tourism abroad (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- Arrest of 18 people suspected of having enslaved 50 Syrian migrant women (<i>Lebanon</i>)</li> <li>- The “Traveling Circus” operation in Houston resulted in the arrest of 400 sex buyers and traffickers. Police set a trap for sex buyers who will then be reported on the “Johns Wall” (<i>USA</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>April 2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A court cancels the visa of a Chinese national “because of the risks he represents to the safety of children in Australia” for repeated acts of exploitation of minors, without sentencing him criminally (<i>Australia</i>)</li> <li>- First wave of sex buyers arrests in Quebec under the new law criminalizing the use of prostitution (<i>Canada</i>)</li> <li>- Dismantling of a Nigerian and Guinean prostitution network in Grenoble revealing particularly horrible living conditions for the victims (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- Confirmation of the sentencing of the “Vampire Pimp,” who exploited and tortured his victims all around the world, to 27 years in prison (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- A procurer in San Francisco gets 97 years in prison “to serve as an example” (<i>USA</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>May 2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A computer scientist is prosecuted for offering a smartphone app to 40 procurers that lists the tastes of more than 110,000 sex buyers (<i>South Korea</i>)</li> <li>- Interrogation of the first sex buyer in Fontainebleau on the first of May under the new law penalizing the use of prostitution (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- Draft law to prosecute sex buyers of illegal prostituted persons, whose number is increasing significantly (<i>Netherlands</i>)</li> <li>- The sentencing of a 98-year-old Geneva procurer to 13 months’ imprisonment with a suspended sentence (<i>Switzerland</i>)</li> </ul>

<p><b>June</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Texan judge acquits a sex buyer who killed an escort that refused to have sex with him, applying a law on self-defense in case of theft (USA)- Police encourages residents to photograph prostituted persons to facilitate their identification and arrest (Kyrgyzstan)</li> <li>- The Cour d’assises of Versailles sentences a French sex tourist to 16 years in prison and a socio-judicial follow-up (France)</li> <li>- 2,500 mobilized police freed more than 200 children detained in three “houses of torture.” Children who died there were fed to dogs (Colombia)</li> </ul>
<p><b>July</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hawaii becomes the last of the 50 States to pass a law against human trafficking (USA)</li> <li>- Police makes an assessment of the past five years of their fight against sexual exploitation, announcing that they have prosecuted 2,084 people and freed 4,500 victims (Vietnam)</li> <li>- In French Polynesia, a 73-year-old procurer and his 16-year-old tout accomplice are indicted for prostitution of children (France)</li> </ul>
<p><b>August</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A mother is prosecuted for prostituting her underage daughter to finance a pilgrimage to Mecca (UAE)</li> <li>- The trial of “Auntie Franca,” who used Heathrow Airport as a hub for sex trafficking of about 40 female children placed in an orphanage (UK)</li> <li>- A procurer managing a “stable” of children called Team LP (Love Pimpin) was declared a “danger to the community” by a judge and sentenced to 30 years in prison (USA)</li> </ul>
<p><b>September</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrest of the creators of “The League,” a group of men participating in a web-based trafficking network that trafficked Korean adolescents in Seattle (USA)</li> <li>- Police freed 21 Nigerian women, 17 of whom were kept in a 30 square meters room and sold to tourists by the “Supreme Eiyé Confraternity,” a criminal group rampant throughout Europe (Spain)</li> <li>- The dismantling of a network entrapping 150 boys. Traffickers incur the death penalty or chemical castration (Indonesia)</li> </ul>
<p><b>October</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closure of three hostess bars managed in Mulhouse by a retired teacher (France)</li> <li>- Operation “Northern Spotlight,” conducted by 53 different police services, results in the arrests of 32 traffickers and frees 16 children (Canada)</li> <li>- 51 women are freed from strip clubs where they were prostituted – seven traffickers are imprisoned (Mexico)</li> <li>- Arrest of the CEO of Backpage, an online prostitution website, for online procuring (USA)</li> </ul>
<p><b>November</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A British banker who killed two Indonesian prostituted women receives a life sentence in Hong Kong (China)</li> <li>- The Cour d’assises of Gironde sentences 11 Bulgarians for having prostituted their children (France)</li> <li>- Seven Chinese men are arrested for prostituting 150 women in Vienna after promising them jobs (Austria)</li> </ul>

<p><b>December</b> <b>2016</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The city of Ushuaia is ordered to compensate a woman exploited in a bar owned by the municipality (<i>Argentina</i>)</li> <li>- Arrest of more than 300 people suspected of prostitution and procuring in nightclubs in the Dongcheng District of Beijing (<i>China</i>)</li> <li>- The Cour d'assises of Vannes sentences a prostituted woman to 12 years' imprisonment for the murder of her procurer, whose body was found in a suitcase floating off the coast (<i>France</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>January</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dismantling of a massage parlor network using Chinese illegal migrant women in Toulouse (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- 9 Nigerian traffickers are arrested for prostituting illegal African migrants (<i>Spain</i>)</li> <li>- A Catholic priest is found to have organized the prostitution of about 15 women in his church in Padua (<i>Italy</i>)</li> <li>- A Calgary woman is sentenced to eight years in prison for prostituting and sequestering identified victims at Alcoholics Anonymous and Drug addicts Anonymous meetings (<i>Canada</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>February</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 522 sex buyers and 30 procurers are arrested at the Superbowl in Houston (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- In California, the "Claim and Rebuild" operation leads to the arrest of 474 people and the freeing of 50 victims, including 28 children (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- 77 traffickers and several hundred employees are prosecuted for procuring and prostitution in the "Baoli" nightclub in Beijing (<i>China</i>)</li> <li>- Three Hungarian traffickers are sentenced to 6, 8, and 13 years in prison for human trafficking in Manchester (<i>UK</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>March</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Entry into force of a law penalizing the purchase of sexual services (<i>Ireland</i>)</li> <li>- Dismantling of a Romanian network that tattooed its victims (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- Police estimate that 9,000 migrant minors are currently in prostitution, and report cases of organ trafficking and cannibalism (<i>Germany</i>)</li> <li>- Arrest of traffickers who sold children' virginites online for EUR 5,000 (USD 5,621) (<i>Spain</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>April</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 104 sex buyers of underage prostituted people are arrested in Toronto under the new law (<i>Canada</i>)</li> <li>- First assessment of the new law: no prostituted person arrested, 800 sex buyers prosecuted (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- Dismantling of a child pornography ring on WhatsApp thanks to a Europe-wide investigation (<i>Spain</i>)</li> <li>- Arrest of an online Asian prostitution network (<i>Kuwait</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>May</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minnesota Prosecutor prosecutes 21 traffickers of Thai victims (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- The procurer "Gorgeous Black" is sentenced to 30 years for trafficking children in Houston (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- Update on a large prostitution network of Nigerian children (12-14 years old) whose number increased by 200% in one year (<i>Belgium</i>)</li> <li>- First convictions for procuring in Marrakech after an Italian television report (<i>Morocco</i>)</li> </ul>

<p><b>June</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 21 sex buyers are arrested in Montreal during the Formula 1 Grand Prix (<i>Canada</i>)</li> <li>- A judge sentences a sex buyer to 35 hours of community service for refusing to pay a amount of USD 500 claimed by a prostituted person (<i>Australia</i>)</li> <li>- In Nantes, a couple of hairdressers offering a haircut with sexual relations are sentenced for procuring (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- A man is sentenced to eight years in prison for raping a prostituted person in a forest (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- A German rap performer prosecuted for prostituting fans is finally convicted for tax evasion (<i>Germany</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>July</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Florida police report 356 underage prostitution cases in 2016; the cost for necessary social assistance to help victims being USD 50,000 per year per child (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- In Hanford, CA, an 18-year-old woman is sentenced to 13 years in prison for prostituting 14-year-old girls she recruited through social media (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- Adoption of a law penalizing the sex buyer (<i>Israel</i>)</li> <li>- Large-scale police raid against the website <i>Elysium</i> specializing in child pornography on the <i>darknet</i> results in the arrest of the site's operator (<i>Germany</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>August</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Paris district court rejects a question regarding the unconstitutionality of the law repressing the purchase of sexual acts by a convicted sex buyer (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- A Former MP is sentenced for life for procuring in his luxury hotel (<i>China</i>)</li> <li>- Dismantling of a network selling Venezuelan transgender people in Barcelona and the Balearic Islands (<i>Spain</i>)</li> <li>- Pakistani traffickers receive more than 300 years in prison in the case of a network trafficking English children in Newcastle (<i>UK</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>September</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dismantling of a network in Lyon exploiting 50 Nigerian women – arrest of the pastor at the head of the network (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- 20 people arrested in the “Sheikh Marriage” case involving the shipping of underage girls to the Persian Gulf (<i>India</i>)</li> <li>- One of the traffickers arrested in Operation “Sanctuary” in Newcastle is sentenced to 29 years in prison (<i>UK</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>October</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Lille, “Papa Success,” the head of a Nigerian procuring network operating out of Italy, was sentenced to six years in prison and EUR 10,000 (USD 11,241) in damages to victim support associations (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- FBI operation “Crosscountry” to fight “the child trafficking epidemic” freed 50 children and arrested 120 traffickers in 2016 (<i>USA</i>)</li> <li>- In Hong Kong, an individual found guilty of the rape of and theft from prostituted people online is sentenced to 11 years in prison (<i>China</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>November</b> <b>2017</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A network of Hungarian prostituted people is dismantled in Nice (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- An Interpol operation simultaneously undertaken in five African countries leads to the arrest of 40 traffickers and the release of hundreds of victims, including 356 children (<i>Chad</i>)</li> <li>- Dismantling of an international luxury prostitution ring (<i>Senegal</i>)</li> <li>- The head of a child prostitution ring is sentenced to 472 years in prison by a judge from Arapahoe County, CO, who noted the post-traumatic stress disorder suffered by the victims as well as the difficult childhood of the convicted person (<i>USA</i>)</li> </ul>

<b>December 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Managers of Chinese massage parlors are arrested in Paris: victims were forced to have 30 “encounters” per day, and were recruited on social networks (<i>France</i>)</li> <li>- Arrest of a procurer in Delhi who had already been sentenced five times, for prostituting girls as young as 12 years old (<i>India</i>)</li> <li>- The Supreme Court decides that prostitution is not illegal but a “highly undesirable” activity, which justifies the refusal of a claim for compensation for loss of income presented by prostituted persons, due to the new law prohibiting the purchase of sexual services (<i>Norway</i>)</li> </ul>
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### **The French Example of Police and Judicial Response**

While the response to the many challenges that sexual exploitation poses to our society cannot be reduced to repressive action, this answer remains an irreplaceable approach to give full effectiveness to the law, which is the democratic expression of the collective will, as well as to reveal objective data on the nature and extent of the phenomenon at any given time. For the period covered by the 5th edition of the Global Report, France has all the more repressive data as a result of the implementation of a new law, which required a particularly careful look at objectives, means, and results. Thus, police reports (reports of the Direction Centrale de la Police Judiciaire - DCPJ) and judicial summaries (Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces - DACG and National Criminal Record) are indicative of the quantitative and qualitative evolutions of sexual exploitation.

#### **On the Police Level**

Police services have noted three trends. The first is the growth of Nigerian networks, which are spreading in the context of transnational criminal organizations linked, in particular, to the migratory consequences of the Syrian War. The second trend is the confirmed emergence of a Franco-French

trade known as the “procuring in the projects,” which describes the movement of traffickers, from disadvantaged neighborhoods, from drug trafficking to the more profitable and safe prostitution market. The third is the widespread use of digital means to facilitate the detection of sex buyers and victims, as well as the booking of premises via *Airbnb*-type platforms.

The figures stating the number of arrests in 2017 confirm the scope of the task for specialized services, whose means have not increased: 67 networks, including 28 legally classified as sex trafficking networks, were thus dismantled, while 894 victims were identified and 1,422 sex buyers were fined.

#### **On the Judicial Level**

The treatment of judicial follow-ups shows, in 2016 and 2017, the emergence of case files classified as human trafficking at the level of judgment, and generally treated by the eight *Juridictions Inter-Régionales Spécialisées* (JIRS - Interregional specialized jurisdictions), specialized in the most serious crimes. As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, these JIRS were examining 99 cases of human trafficking and 129 cases of procuring, 60% of which had the legal aggravated circumstance of the use of the internet. In 2016, 635 perpetrators were prosecuted and 575 convictions were pronounced, 71 of which were for human

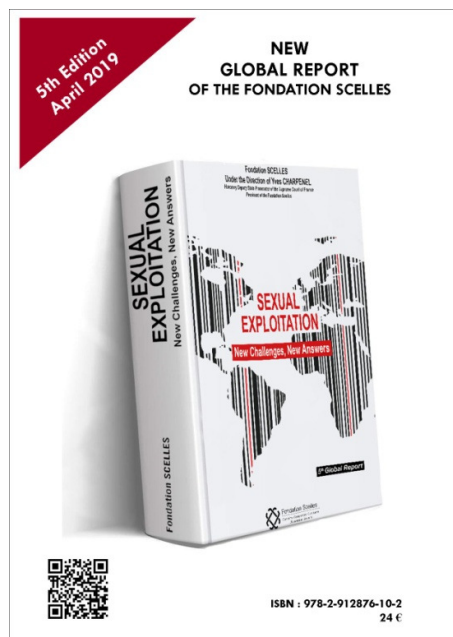
trafficking. Only 4% of investigations that became aggravated procuring cases did not result in a conviction at the end. The average prison sentence passed is 26 months' imprisonment for aggravated procuring and 42 months for human trafficking. The average fine is EUR 21,222 (USD 23,856), which is an increase compared to the previous period. In 2017, there were 850 convictions, 46% concerning women (compared to 10% for other offenses involving women). The report also shows that 92% of victims of human trafficking are women. Finally, 1,826 victims received follow-up care under the new penal policy inspired by the new law.

<sup>1</sup> All of the press articles recounting these cases are available at the Observatoire international de l'exploitation sexuelle/International Observatory on Sexual Exploitation (Fondation Scelles).

## Sources

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The Global Report is produced by the International Observatory on Sexual Exploitation, in collaboration with internal and external experts (magistrates, lawyers, social workers, NGO leaders...), and the support of local NGO correspondents or international researchers.



The **Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles**, recognized as a public utility since 1994 and as a consultative status with ECOSOC, is an independent, non-profit organization based in Paris (France) dedicated to fight the system of prostitution and the exploitation of prostituted persons, through information, analysis, advocacy, trainings, awareness initiatives and legal actions. The **Fondation Jean et Jeanne Scelles** is a co-founding member of the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution (CAP International) which was launched in 2013 and today brings together 28 abolitionist NGOs from 22 countries.

The **International Observatory on Sexual Exploitation** is a worldwide hub which allows for information exchange on the system of prostitution. The hub is regularly consulted by French and foreign experts including NGOs, institutions, journalists, lawyers, researchers and those involved in the defense of human rights. The goals of the **International Observatory on Sexual Exploitation** are:

- to analyze all the aspects of the phenomenon: prostitution, sex tourism, procurement, child pornography, sex buyers, human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation...
- to encourage reflection and to take a stand
- to inform the public who are interested in these issues

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