



Comisión **Unidos Vs. Trata**

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations

A Pathway to Freedom: Rescue and Refuge for Sex Trafficking Victims

One-hundredth and fourteenth congress

Testimony of Rosi Orozco

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Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity of presenting testimony before this committee. Today I am here out of a profound sense of obligation to focus on the problem of sex trafficking, specially the reality of sexual tourism and child pornography. To establish some context I should explain a little of who I am. For the last 10 years my life has been dedicated to fighting human trafficking in all of its forms, but especially that of sexual exploitation of women and minors. First as a congresswoman with the LXI Legislature of the Mexican House of Representatives, where I worked to establish the general law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Offenses on Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist the Victims of these Crimes. It was enacted into law in June of 2012, since then, ten states have ratified the law and harmonized their state laws with the provisions of the general law. We are working to make sure that the remaining 22 states carry out the reforms as soon as possible. Since the law took effect, Mexico has reported about 260 sentences, which positions us as leaders in prosecutions of human traffickers worldwide. More recently, as President of The



Commission United vs. Human Trafficking, working in partnership with 97 other NGO's, I have made sure that we communicate a clear message to every social, political, business, arts and international platform: "In Mexico, human beings are not for sale, and we will fight against anyone that acts against this fact."

In truth, my passion is to work directly with the beautiful girls that have suffered and been rescued from this horrific crime. I have personally worked with more than 200 victims, shared their stories, and witnessed their struggles as they look to rebuild their lives and heal from the worst pain that can be inflicted on a human being: the loss of their freedom and dignity. More than anything, they need all of us to be willing to fight for them, and they deserve to be heard.

Today, I am here representing them. Sadly, Mexico is an important producer, transit way and destiny of human trafficking of women, men and children that are being exploited both in Mexico and the United States. According to the World Tourism Organization¹ and the International Labor Organization² about 3 million people travelling the world look for travel related opportunities to participate in sexual acts with children. Sexual tourism affects more than two million children that are obligated to prostitute themselves or work in the pornography industry. Sexual tourism is the principal motor behind Child Sexual exploitation. This is a phenomenon that in recent years has extended exponentially through out the world, especially in Asia and Latin America; Mexico being one of the principal countries being affected especially in its northern border towns and beach cities. Last year, your own Homeland Security Department³ has situated Mexico as the number one dis-



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tributor of Child Pornography in the world. This is largely due to the high demand. Statistics demonstrate that most perpetrators are coming from the United States, England, Holland, and Germany⁴ In a study done by the American Bar association, 47 bands of human traffickers were identified in Mexico⁵, of which the most renown originate in the state of Tlaxcala, these are very well known for importing their victims to the United States. I urge today all of us to make sure that our countries work together to put a stop to the atrocity of human trafficking in all its forms. By refining our laws, and committing to communicate and cooperate with each other, we can stop the criminalization of victims, work to push hard to strengthen the law against providers and consumers, ease the path for the prosecution of cases, and provide the care that victims and their families need to rebuild their lives. Strategic alliances between our governments and non-government organizations are important steps towards combating this enormous problem. Together we can make a difference.

Please welcome my friend Karla Jacinto. She is a survivor of human trafficking and she is here to share a little bit of her story.



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Resources

1.

http://dtxtg4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/29_report_world_tourism_network_on_child_protection.pdf

2. http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_9150/lang--en/index.htm

3. As stated in the Symposium on Combating Exploitation and Child Pornography – 3013 -

<http://www.elmanana.com/aseguradepartamentodeseguridaddeeuquemexicoeselprincipaldestinodepederastas-2312203.html>

4. http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-MEXICO_0.pdf

5. (ABA) https://apps.americanbar.org/rol/publications/mexico_2009_htat_en.pdf