

Review

Regime internacional de enfrentamento ao tráfico de pessoas avanços e desafios para a proteção dos direitos humanos

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Silva, W. C. (2018). Regime internacional de enfrentamento ao tráfico de pessoas: avanços e desafios para a proteção dos direitos humanos. Rio de Janeiro, RJ: Lumen Juris.

The work entitled **International regime to fight against trafficking in persons: advances and challenges for protecting human rights**

[Regime internacional de enfrentamento ao tráfico de pessoas: avanços

e desafios para a proteção dos direitos humanos], by Waldimeiry Correa da Silva, Ph.D., is of great academic and social relevance. The theme *trafficking in persons* is analyzed with technical and scientific rigor, aiming to democratize complex and poorly addressed information; as the author asserts, this term is still confused with adjacent conceptualizations.

The book is structured into four chapters, which are interconnected and complement each other, starting from the historical approach to the current context and its issues. The author uses a significant bibliographic collection, specialized and documentary, on *trafficking in human beings*, based on official data cataloged by organizations directly linked to the United Nations (UN), in addition to jurisprudence and legal doctrine, contributing to grasp the biases related to trafficking in persons.

We may say that the book was prepared in a didactic way, showing concern and zeal with readers' understanding. To do this, it resorts to illustrations, either explaining conceptual distinctions in a systematic manner or drawing schematic maps, or even demonstrating the general routes of international trafficking in persons through such illustrations. The author looks at the study object going through both notions of slavery (slave trade) and similar practices. Thus, it analyzes the concept established by International Criminal Law and by Human Rights – especially in regional protection systems, such as the European and the Inter-American.

In her four chapters, the author demonstrates that the regime of trafficking in persons is more easily visible within the period of European maritime expansion. It is precisely in this context that the work's explanations begin, indeed. *Human being's objectification* is rooted in the oldest cultures and in all continents. Whether in front of indigenous people, in pre-colonial Americas, or in front of the Orientals, in the various relationships between different peoples, such as trafficking for sexual exploitation of women who go from Myanmar to China, or even domestically, trafficking has always been observed in the countries.

Just as evidenced, *human being's objectification*, particularly related to women, subjects who lack time and voice, has perpetuated for centuries – all over the world. Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as accurately analyzed by the author, becomes a matter of concern only when it starts to affect white women, a symbol of Christianity, the bourgeois family, and civilization. This fact proves the brutal anesthesia of society and the State by that time: the author weighs the paradox existing in the same society that advocates, on the one hand, good morals and, on the other, engages in sexual exploitation, contradicting itself. Such praxis reveals the true features of a still male chauvinist society, combined to a capitalist production model: the pursuit of profit overrides the most noble values that could be achieved, something which ends up encouraging the intensification of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The author stresses that *trafficking in human beings is a transnational issue* that requires public coping policies at the global level, since only something structured all over the world could face the third most lucrative activity in organized crime, which generates billions of dollars annually. Regarding this theme, a highlight according to Correa da Silva refers to current eases, especially the flow of individuals and modern communication technologies, something which favors and propagates trafficking in human beings. At this point, the conceptualization of trafficking in persons and the differentiation of this term in relation to usually interlinked practices, such as, for instance, the smuggling of immigrants, are reflections of paramount importance for researchers devoted to public policies.

One of the author's clear concerns consists in defining accurately the various types of trafficking. This is justified, and vitally significant, due to the confusion that may occur between media outlets when disclosing official statistical data on the subject matter – this makes it extremely hard to assess the actual status of trafficking types around the world and the consequent fight against criminal practices. There is an analytical delimitation to the regional contexts of America and Europe in face of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation as a central theme. Such a delimitation provides a critical study of the real contribution of regional systems for protecting victims of trafficking in persons.

Overall, the international community needs to define more accurate concepts. Although the 2000 Palermo Protocol provided guidelines to outline criminal types, it is the duty of each State Party to widen, as well as deepen, the conceptual boundaries for a more effective characterization and punishment of these crimes, covering possible gaps that still exist. However, according to the author, this State duty has not been satisfactorily fulfilled.

Throughout the book, the author's concern with changing the anesthetic, indifferent, community attitude and seeking a synesthetic state, i.e. tackling problems through globally interconnected public policies committed to safeguarding the human rights of people in situations of trafficking. Thus, the last chapter lists the action types to fight against trafficking that can prove effective for protecting human rights, both those of victims and potential victims. To do this, the author addresses regional actions, through international organizations, aiming measures at prevention, repression, and prosecution, essentially based on the need for cooperation between States. As a more effective measure, decent working conditions to empower citizens begin to emerge, since the outdated, unstructured socioeconomic circumstance is identified as one of the main causes that lead people to enter the trafficking networks.

This conclusion drawn by the author encourages reflection. Her work exposes the main factors that can lead a person to allow her/himself to be corrupted, to become objectified, by human trafficking. Socioeconomic conditions are one of these factors. However, it is worth asking these questions:

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- If, on the one hand, the entry of *objectified* people in the trafficking system because they do not have access to primary living conditions is explained – and this is a fact, as a family that has nothing to eat on a regular basis is more susceptible to alienate a child in exchange for food than others without such a need – what may we say about the *countries that consume* these human beings?
 - How may we explain that countries with a high human development index (HDI) – whose inhabitants have easy access to the best natural, social, and technological resources on the planet – are still such regular consumers of other human beings?

In this context, the primary law of economics is enough to explain: there is supply because there is demand. And, in this regard, it is also worth asking:

- What could be missing in these *consuming countries* so that they still ask for such a human barbarism?
- Should not education, the education system as a whole, make the inhabitants of these countries aware of not tolerating the occurrence of crimes of this nature?

Questions like these are useful to address the most varied forms of exploitation and trafficking in persons – and not just sexual exploitation.

Reference

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