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Open debate of the Security Council
on
Maintenance of International peace and security: Trafficking of persons in
conflict situations
21 November 2017

Intervention by
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay
Permanent Representative

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Honorable members of the Security Council, Dear Colleagues,

I wish to thank Italy for providing us the opportunity to reflect on this extremely important topic.

Let me also join the others in thanking Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Executive Director Yury Fedotov, Special Rapporteur Maria Grazia Giammarinaro and Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union H.E. Smail Chergui for their informative briefings. We wish to thank UNODC for their ongoing efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons.

Hungary, fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

“More than anything else, I want to be the last girl in the world with a story like mine.”

This is how Nadia Murad, UNODC Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking, ends *“The Last Girl,”* her recently published memoir of survival. The story of her harrowing struggle shows us what a sophisticated, adaptive, cynical, and highly variegated crime Human Trafficking is, and as such can be defeated only by enhanced cooperation, close partnership, and strong leadership.

It is a truly global threat, and we must fight against it together. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the resolution, which we co-sponsored, as it is an important step forward in the fight against these heinous crimes and this wave of human rights violations.

We are appalled by the recent news reports showing migrants in Libya reportedly being sold as slaves. In this regard, we commend Secretary General, Antonio Guterres for calling on competent authorities to investigate slave auctions without delay.

Mr. President,

Hungary is of the view that a number of steps need to be taken if we wish to fight this global threat more effectively:

First, our truly human rights and survivor-centered approach to human trafficking should be based on the protection of survivors, with a special focus on women and children. Furthermore, our response has to be gender- and age-sensitive, as well as exploitation type-specific. We must ensure a holistic approach from the local to the global level using all tools available within the UN system.

Second, for effective implementation of the relevant SC resolutions at the national and international level, close and comprehensive cooperation as well as effective partnerships are needed among states, international organizations, civil society, and business groups.

We recognize the importance of international cooperation in combatting human trafficking both from law enforcement and from a victim assistance perspective. In this spirit, Hungary maintains close cooperation with destination countries for human trafficking. We established a transnational referral mechanism with the Netherlands and Belgium, and recently a similar project was concluded with Switzerland that makes the identification, referral and assistance of Hungarian victims of trafficking more efficient. Active international cooperation is maintained both during investigation and asset recovery, and the Hungarian Police has participated in numerous joint actions and established several joint investigative teams with destination countries.

Interagency cooperation must start at the national level. In Hungary, significant measures have been implemented for combating Human Trafficking, including the setting up of a national coordination mechanism. For the 2014-2020 programming period relevant financial resources were allocated to the implementation of projects aimed at reducing trafficking in human beings and supporting victims.

Third, we advocate for greater compliance with international humanitarian law and for accountability by ending impunity and bringing the perpetrators to justice. Human trafficking is not only one of the most severe abuses of human rights, but also a lucrative business that generates billions of dollars in revenues every year. Therefore, we believe that it is not enough to bring the perpetrators of trafficking to justice but we must also hold those accountable who support and enable their activities.

Certain acts associated with trafficking in persons, such as sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy or any other forms of sexual violence may constitute war crimes. Furthermore, acts associated with trafficking in persons could be constituting elements of genocide and could constitute crimes against humanity. Therefore, Hungary supports the inclusion of perpetrators of trafficking in persons in UN and unilateral sanctions.

As member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group at the UN, Hungary is committed to support all initiatives aimed at preventing or ending genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including the adoption of a Code of Conduct in the Security Council.

Fourth, we should also explore what role existing mechanisms tasked to investigate allegations of breaches and violations of international humanitarian law (e.g. the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission) could play in ensuring that these crimes are investigated by the competent authorities. We are proud that last year, Hungary became a member of the International Humanitarian Fact-finding Commission (IHFFC).

Hungary actively supports national and international efforts in this regard. We highly appreciate the work of the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. Recognizing that women can be especially vulnerable to trafficking in persons in conflict situations and to conflict related sexual violence, Hungary proudly contributed with 70.000 USD to the invaluable work of the gender advisers deployed in the framework of a

collaboration between UN Women and Justice Rapid Response, as well as UN Women's work on preventing violent extremism.

Mr. President,

My personal commitment is to keep this issue on the agenda as a priority, and I encourage Member States to engage in a reinforced cooperation on law enforcement, investigations and information sharing. Hungary remains ready to participate actively in the discussions on how to strengthen the UN response to this global threat.

Thank you for your attention.