

NewsFlash :: February 2012 :: The Reality of Sex-Trafficking in Costa Rica

Hello again, this is Bob & Michele Perez.

If you'll just give me five minutes, I think this newsletter will astound you just as much as it continues to astound us!

Costa Rica draws tourists from all over the world. They love our beaches, jungles, animals, and even surfing, but unfortunately they also come for our bustling commercial sex-industry.

Organized crime plagues our cities and corrupted city officials have hindered efforts to combat trafficking. Inside Costa Rica courageously published an article stating that "authorities have yet to convict a single case of human trafficking" in spite of the many obvious cases (1). Furthermore, the CIA published its latest report declaring that "Costa Rica is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking"(2). The government also has no intentional infrastructure created for victims of said trafficking (2).

Some might say, "**Roberto, I find that hard to believe.**"

December 21, 2011, Mayor Lutargo Bolanos Gomez is arrested and the story hits all the newspapers because he and his municipal workers domestically trafficked at-risk youth from San Jose. Using public funds, they filmed and sold pornographic videos and sexually exploited youth as young as 14 yrs. old (3). The worst part of this story is that the Mayor has never been arrested and to date, remains **FREE** with few limitations (4)!

Our #1 newspaper in the country reported back in November that the police in our touristy areas are ill-equipped to handle the problems while those who traffic victims are incredibly savvy in their efforts to make money. Understanding that people may complain if local women are victimized, the traffickers have sought foreigners hoping to satisfy demand while at the same time hoping that this will cause locals to turn a blind eye (5).

"Unlike drugs, **a person can be sold again and again**, making it a lucrative business"(6). Because prostitution isn't illegal in Costa Rica, it falls within a gray zone where it's been accepted over the past several years. "As a destination for sex tourists, the sex industry in Costa Rica has become very sophisticated, elegant and perverse" being driven by three things, **MONEY, POWER, & DEMAND** (6).

Well, Now where do we fit in?? and what do we do?? I'm out of space and so that will come next month in our March 2012 E-Newsletter. Subscribe today at <http://whowillgo.net/subscription.html>

~Bob, Michele, Silla & Izzy Perez

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Citations from Previous Page :: All Citations are recent and relevant.

1. <http://www.insidecostarica.com/dailynews/2012/january/30/costarica12013001.htm>
2. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2196.html>
3. <http://www.nacion.com/2012-01-12/Sucesos/Alcalde-de-Aguirre-recapturado-tras-nuevas-denuncias-por-esclavitud-sexual.aspx>
4. <http://www.nacion.com/2012-01-12/Sucesos/Alcalde-de-Aguirre-recapturado-tras-nuevas-denuncias-por-esclavitud-sexual.aspx>
5. <http://www.nacion.com/2011-09-11/Opinion/la-trata.aspx>
6. http://www.ticotimes.net/Current-Edition/Top-Story/Costa-Rica-lags-in-sex-trafficking-fight_Friday-January-27-2012

Is. 59:1

Surely the arm

Of the **LORD** is not too short to save,

nor his ear too dull to hear.

And as He sends our family and yours into the darkest areas of Costa Rica, **WE WILL** make a difference from young to old!



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