



**anti-
slavery**

today's fight for tomorrow's freedom



reporter

october 2006

**Revealing—
slavery across Latin America**

In this issue

Landmark slavery case in Niger

Meeting Mauritania's president

Anti-Slavery wins first BeMOBO Award

Comment

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DECLARED THE CONFLICT IN DARFUR AS "ONE OF THE WORLD'S WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISES". Within the last three years, 400,000 people have been killed and an estimated 2.5 million people displaced.

Most of the villages in Darfur have been destroyed and there is widespread violence against women and children, including rape and abduction into sexual slavery or forced labour.

There are also casualties among the African Union (AU) peacekeeping troops sent to the region to monitor an earlier ceasefire, and among members of humanitarian agencies.

One of the main sources of this brutality is the *Janjaweed*. A militia which the Government has recruited and armed from local nomadic tribes of Arab descent, in order to fight a proxy war on its behalf. They have killed, displaced and abducted many of the non-Arab, non-nomadic people of the region, mainly from the *Fur*, *Zaghawa* and *Massaleit* ethnic groups.

In May, the Government signed a peace agreement with the Sudan Liberation Army, one of the rebel movements in the region. The fact that this agreement excluded all other armed factions means the brutality continues.

In response to increased fighting, the UN Security Council passed resolution 1706 in August, calling for 20,000 UN peacekeepers to supplement the 7,000 AU forces in Darfur. The Government of Sudan strongly objected and said it would regard UN troops as foreign invaders and, in response, would launch a major military offensive.

Worryingly, the AU is due to withdraw its troops in December, increasing the urgency for action that would protect Darfur's civilians from further abuses. Additionally, the UN needs to investigate the human rights violations that have already been perpetrated, particularly the abduction of women and children and other slavery-related violations and for those responsible to be prosecuted.



Becky Shand/Anti-Slavery International

Asim Turkawi
Africa Programme Officer

The AU is due to withdraw its troops in December, increasing urgency for action that would protect Darfur's civilians from further abuses.

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Printed by THE PRINTED WORD

Cover photograph
Slavery takes many forms throughout
Latin America, see pages 8-9
Credit: Carlos Kaipperu & Ministerio
do Trabalho

Series VIII, Vol. 12, Issue No. 4
The Reporter magazine was
established in 1840

Anti-Slavery International, the
world's oldest international human
rights organisation, has consultative
status with the United Nations
Economic and Social Council.

Registered Charity 1049160
Company limited by guarantee
3079904 Registered in England



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Anti-Slavery International, founded in 1839, is committed to eliminating all forms of slavery throughout the world. Slavery, servitude and forced labour are violations of individual freedoms, which deny millions of people their basic dignity and fundamental human rights. Anti-Slavery International works to end these abuses by campaigning for slavery's eradication, exposing current cases, supporting the initiatives of local organisations to release people and pressing for more effective implementation of international laws against slavery.

Right: Domestic work is typically seen as a safe form of work for girls despite their vulnerability to exploitation

News



Georgina Cranston

Still no action on Nepal bonded labour

In response to former bonded labourers' and activists' demands, the Nepalese Government formed a commission in August to investigate kamaiya bonded labour and recommend action. Despite promises, it has failed to take any action.

The commission was also formed to arrange land distribution and provide identity cards, which are vital to being able to access support. Its formation was announced following protests against government inaction.

About 100 protesters were arrested during the July demonstrations, including Dilli Chaudhary, Director of Backward Society Education, 2002 Anti-Slavery Award winner. The protests marked six years since the Government declared bonded labour illegal; a law was not passed until 2002.

Under the Kamaiya Labour (Prohibition) Act, the Government is required to provide housing, employment and income-generating activities to certain groups of kamaiya. But four years on, thousands remain without these vital means of support.

Below: In 2005, the UAE estimated 3,000 children were being used as camel jockeys



CDP/Anti-Slavery International

India bans child domestic labour

On 10 October, employing children under 14 as domestic workers in India became illegal.

Millions of children in India, some as young as seven, work as domestics. They work long hours, often for little or no pay, and many are only given leftovers to eat and a spare space, such as the kitchen floor, on which to sleep.

Although domestic work is widely seen as a safe occupation, particularly for girls, in many cases it is extremely hazardous and exploitative. The Government's action is an important step in recognition of child domestic work as a serious problem.

The ban supplements the 1986 Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, which prohibits employing under-14s in a range of sectors, but did not include domestic work or work in such areas as teashops, restaurants and hotels.

Offenders could face two years in prison and a fine of up to 20,000 rupees (US\$430), but implementation and prosecutions are vital if this ban is to have any effect.



Alex Smalley/COJONS Magazine

Above: Millions of children in India are enslaved in domestic labour

Dubai sheikh faces law suit for using children as camel jockeys

On 13 September, one of the largest United States law firms filed a law suit in Florida against the Governor of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, his brother and 500 others for using children trafficked as camel jockeys.

The suit, brought on behalf of six parents and thousands of children, seeks "to punish the perpetrators of these vile crimes and compensate the victims for their pain and suffering", Ron Motley of Motley Rice LLC said.

The defendants face nine counts including engaging in slavery, conspiring to engage in slavery, engaging in or facilitating child labour, battery, assault, infliction of emotional distress and wrongful death.

The case draws attention to the seriousness of child trafficking in the United Arab Emirates and highlights the need for former slaves to receive compensation.

Niger slave wins court battle against her master

In the first case of its kind in Niger, a slave owner was found guilty of the offence of slavery and was ordered to pay his former slave compensation.

Houalata Ibrahim, 18, said "he treated me as his slave, as he did my mother before me. I had to do [everything] Every time he thought I was late or that the work was done badly, he beat me He told me I was just a stupid slave and had no rights."

The case, brought by Timidria with support from Anti-Slavery International, proves that this is no longer the case. "The message is clear the law will punish those who continue to practice slavery and justice will be done for those who suffer this abhorrent violation of their basic human rights," lawyer Maitre Chaibou said.

Seidimou Hiya was found guilty on 25 July, and ordered to serve one year of a five year sentence in jail and fined the equivalent of £500. He was also ordered to pay Houalata £1,000 in compensation for her years of servitude as well as £500 towards Timidria's legal costs.

Ilgilas Weila, President of Timidria, stated "this is a truly historic day in the fight against slavery in Niger.... Now Houalata can begin to rebuild her life and look forward to starting a family, a family who will live in freedom, free from the shackles of slavery."



Loirena Ross & Dominic Ridley

Left: People are trafficked to the UK from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America

UK Government fails victims of forced labour trafficking

A new report by Anti-Slavery International reveals that people trafficked into forced labour in the United Kingdom are not being identified by the authorities and there is no system of protection or support for the victims of this crime.

Trafficking for Forced Labour: UK country report, launched in September, also establishes that many people trafficked into Britain enter the country legally from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America to work in such areas as agriculture, construction, domestic work, food processing and in hotels.

Even though it has been an offence to traffic people into forced labour since 2004, there has not been a single prosecution. It is hoped the Government's opening of the UK Human Trafficking Centre in Sheffield on 3 October will help address these failings.

The centre will work on all forms of trafficking, including for labour, sexual exploitation and internal trafficking. Importantly, it is a multi-agency organisation, bringing key bodies together and will comprise police from across the country, and staff from the Serious Crime Unit, Immigration Service, Crown Prosecution Service, and a victim support co-ordinator.

However, it is not a solution in itself, particularly where protection and assistance are concerned. The UK still has no system of guaranteed protection, as could be provided by signing the Council of Europe's *Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings*. Plus, there is no established referral mechanism through which people trafficked into forced labour could be helped (see page 6 to take action).



Loirena Ross & Dominic Ridley

Right: With no guaranteed protection, victims of trafficking are at risk of being treated as criminals

Take action

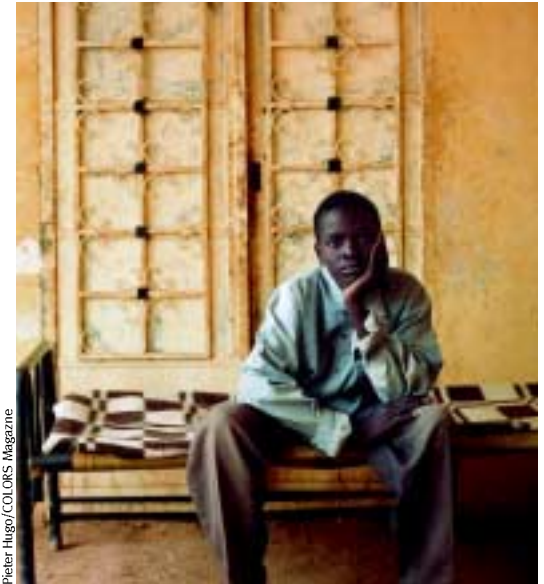


Mike Dottridge/Anti-Slavery International

Above: James Aguer

Right: A freed slave waits to be returned home

Announcing the 2006 Anti-Slavery Award



Pieter Hugo/COLORS Magazine

Take action on UK trafficking



Anti-Slavery International's new research on trafficking for forced labour in the United Kingdom, reveals the seriousness of this issue and the Government's failure to take effective action against it, especially regarding help for people enslaved in this way (see page 5).

Included in the report are 27 cases of people trafficked into such areas as agriculture, domestic work, packaging and hotel work. Not one was identified by the authorities as a victim of trafficking. As a result, they could not get appropriate help and none of the traffickers has been prosecuted.

The research clearly shows that one of the obstacles to progress is the Government's practice of viewing trafficking from the immigration standpoint rather than from the exploitation that results. If there is to be progress in tackling this abuse, trafficking for forced labour needs to be recognised as a human rights issue and appropriate support services put in place for those being exploited.

Currently there is no specialised protection or support for people trafficked into forced labour and there have been no prosecutions under the 2004 legislation which outlawed the crime.

Take action now!

You can email the UK Government at www.antislavery.org/2007 under 'country action' or get in touch with Sarah Williams on +44 (0)20 7501 8933 or email s.williams@antislavery.org to find out more.

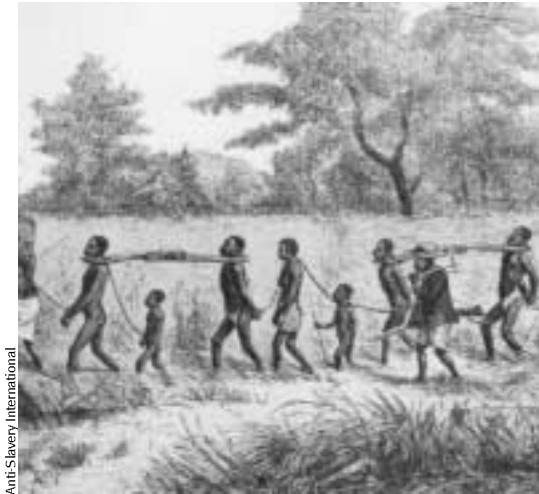
On 28 November, James Aguer, Chairperson of the Dinka Committee in Sudan, will be presented with this year's Anti-Slavery Award for his work against slavery in the country.

Today, the Dinka Committee estimates thousands of people are still in slavery and in need of release, return and integration. The 20-year civil war between the Sudan Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, which raged until 2002, fuelled the conditions that led to an estimated 14,000 people to be captured in raids by government-backed militias in the southern part of the country. And many were subsequently born into slavery.

James Aguer helped form the Dinka Committee in 1989 to identify and secure the release of Dinka abducted from their homeland in Bahr-el-Ghazal, Southern Sudan. He also runs a shelter for escaped and freed slaves in the capital Khartoum.

The ceremony will be held on Tuesday 28 November, 7.30pm at:
Chatham House
10 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LE
Nearest tube: Green Park/ Piccadilly Circus

Everyone is welcome but places are limited. To register your attendance please contact Sarah Williams at s.williams@antislavery.org



Left: Captive Africans were forced to walk hundreds of miles to coastal slave forts

Walk in abolitionists' footsteps

To mark the bicentenary of Britain's abolition of the slave trade, Lifeline Expedition is holding March of the Abolitionists. In 2007, it will hold two walks in order to promote understanding, learning and reconciliation in relation to the Transatlantic Slave Trade and to support action against the slave trade's legacies and slavery today.

The reason for walking – over 200 years ago:

- Captive Africans were forced to walk hundreds of miles to coastal slave forts from which they were taken by ship to a life of slave labour in the Americas and Caribbean;
- Thomas Clarkson travelled 470 miles from London to Bristol to Liverpool and back to London collecting facts about the slave trade and promoting the cause of abolition;
- 200 years later, you can join the March of the Abolitionists and walk in abolitionists' footsteps, reflecting on enslaved Africans' cruel journeys.

Learning and reconciling – discover:

- Famous abolitionists including Olaudah Equiano, Clarkson and William Wilberforce, and those history failed to record, including the Africans who fought for their freedom and women across Britain who ensured thousands signed petitions;
- How Britain benefited from slavery. Walkers will pass many stately homes and canals built with the profits from slavery.

In a symbolic form of apology some white participants will walk in yokes and chains. The expedition is a series of reconciliation journeys, which constitute a Christian response to the legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Support the Fight for Freedom

In collaboration with Anti-Slavery International, the March will also raise funds for various projects combating contemporary slavery, as well as projects dealing with the Slave Trade's legacies in West Africa, the Caribbean and inner-city Britain.

Part I: The Meridian Walk – 1 to 25 March 2007

The first part of the walk is named after the Greenwich meridian line.

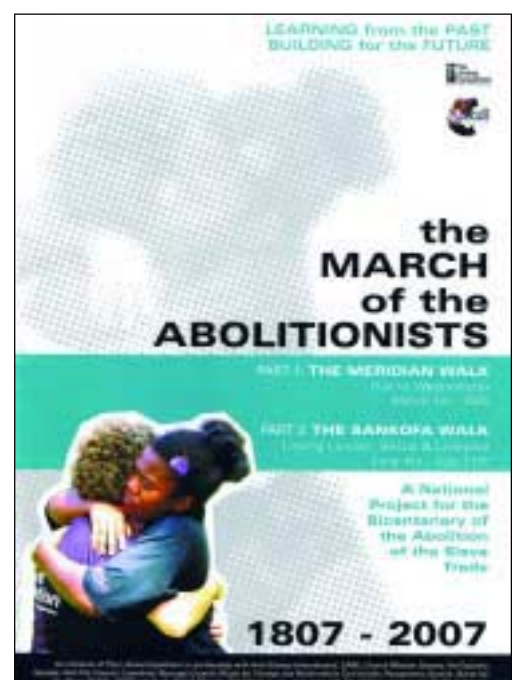
This walk from Hull to Westminster will be 200 miles long – a mile for each year since The Abolition of the Slave Trade Bill became law on 25 March 1807.

Part II: The Sankofa Walk – 4 June to 11 July 2007

Sankofa means "we must learn from the past to build for the future" in the West African language Akan.

A challenging 470 mile journey over 40 days linking the three major slave ports of London, Bristol and Liverpool. It will follow the route taken by Thomas Clarkson on his momentous journey of 1787 (see page 12). The journey will also include other cities such as Birmingham and Manchester, which have links both to the slave trade and abolition.

For more information and to take part in these walks visit www.lifelineexpedition.co.uk or contact David Pott on 020 8694 2220 or Lorna Anderson on 01895 635538.



Exposed – slavery in Latin America

Research and Advocacy Officer Bhavna Sharma reveals the extent of slavery across the region.

1, 2 and 3) Brazil: The Government's Mobile Inspection Group raids estates in the Amazon that use forced labour

4) Peru: Child domestic work is a problem throughout the country and region

5) Paraguay: Indigenous people demonstrate for their rights

6) Paraguay: Indigenous children are used as bonded labour

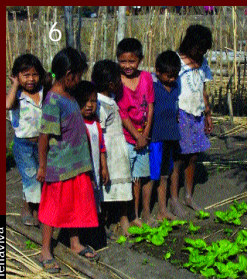
7 and 8) Argentina: Demonstrators demand action on trafficking



www.casoavon.org.ar



www.casoavon.org.ar



Iteraviva



Iteraviva



Carlos Kaipperu & Ministerio do Trabalho



Carlos Kaipperu & Ministerio do Trabalho



Carlos Kaipperu & Ministerio do Trabalho



Asociación Grupode Trabajo Redes

AFTER MANY YEARS OF FOCUSING ON COMBATING FORCED LABOUR IN BRAZIL'S AMAZON AND CHILD DOMESTIC WORK IN PERU, ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL HAS EXPANDED ITS WORK TO INVESTIGATE CONTEMPORARY SLAVERY ACROSS LATIN AMERICA.

What we discovered was that slavery takes many forms throughout the continent, including bonded labour of indigenous peoples, trafficking for both sexual and labour exploitation, forced labour on farms and domestic work. Working with local NGO partners, we were able to visit Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay to research some of these issues in depth; here are just a few examples of what we found.

In Paraguay, the use of indigenous workers as forced labour on estates is an entrenched problem. It stems from 1885, when the Government sold much of the indigenous-held land to foreign speculators. Since then, indigenous people living on land that once was theirs have been required to work as labourers on ranches.

In the *Chaco*, a region in northern Paraguay, cattle ranches are the only source of employment. Workers are enslaved as bonded labourers, receiving only basic food and shelter in return for their labour. Men and women have to carry out a range of agricultural work, including clearing undergrowth, tending livestock, harvesting crops and repairing fences. Women have the double burden of also being required to carry out domestic work for the ranchers.

Emilio (not his real name) worked for more than 15 years on an estate. In return for the long hours he had to work, seven days a week, he was only given food, clothes and basic goods; he was never paid and had no days off. His is not an isolated case.

He was one of about 50 workers and all were treated badly. The long working day, the distance of the estates from the nearest town, their lack of money for transportation and the fact that many workers only have half a day off a week or less, makes it impossible for them to seek work elsewhere or to get provisions from sources other than at the estate shop, which charges inflated prices for basic goods. In some cases there are direct restrictions on workers' freedom of movement.

Despite this, in 1999, Emilio finally left, with nothing. He reports that practices on the estate remain unchanged.

We also found that indigenous people are used as forced labour in Bolivia, in this case, on sugar cane plantations. The majority are held in some form of debt bondage, forced by poverty to borrow money from recruiters. Their debt grows because they are charged interest on the original loan and have no choice but to buy food and goods on credit.

In 2003, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated 21,000 people in the eastern lowland area of Santa Cruz alone were in forced labour: men, women and children; many of the children were under 14.

Sugar cane producers use subcontractors to recruit workers

from such towns as Chuquisaca and Potosi in the Bolivian highlands. These areas have large populations of indigenous people living in desperately poor conditions, with limited options for work. They give potential workers an advance on their future salaries, but once the workers have taken it, they cannot give the money back and are obliged to work for that contractor.

Even though the contract is only made with the male head of the household, women and children are automatically included as part of the workforce. The women only receive a quarter of men's daily salary, if anything at all. Children are never paid.

Contractors deduct at least 30 per cent of workers' wages, supposedly as "savings". The contractor assures the worker that this is for their own benefit, so that they can leave with some money at the end of the season. In reality, it is a way to force workers to stay until the end of the season.

Even so, when the season finishes, the worker discovers he is still in debt and has to return the following season to pay off what is still owed. If he dies, his debt may be inherited by his sons.

One form of slavery found throughout the continent is domestic work, which enslaves substantial numbers of children and young women.

Many have never left home before, they live with their employer and have very little if any contact with their family, making them particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Often parents in rural areas allow children to go to a particular home in the belief that their child will be better off, or in the hope of

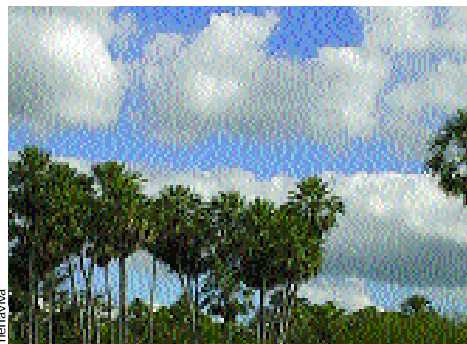
receiving money in the future. But the child is rarely paid. Instead, they only receive basic food and shelter in return for working long hours carrying out all of the housework. Most parents believe their child will get an education, but this rarely happens.

Their isolation and inexperience make it very difficult for them to demand their rights and seek support. This is compounded by the fact that it is considered socially acceptable in many Latin American countries to use children as domestics.

Despite the extent of slavery in Latin America, there are many positive forces present. Civil society is active and growing, with many organisations committed both to working with each other and with international organisations to address the issue. In many countries governments have also begun to make positive steps in recognising that slavery is a problem as well as in putting forward policies to eradicate it.

Since 2001, for example, the Brazilian Government has had the National Plan for the Eradication of Slavery in place and more recently both the Peruvian and Bolivian governments have put together national plans of action for the eradication of forced labour, with technical support from the ILO.

Anti-Slavery International will continue to work with local partners in the region to bring the practice of slavery to light and to work for solutions for its elimination. Please visit www.antislavery.org 'slavery' to see our recent reports on slavery in Latin America.



Above: The use of indigenous people as bonded labour in Paraguay is an entrenched problem

Anti-Slavery wins first BeMOBO Award



Dez Mighty

On 20 September Anti-Slavery International received with the first Western Union BeMOBO Award in recognition of our work against slavery, past and present.

The award was presented at the MOBOs (Music of Black Origin), in the Royal Albert Hall in a ceremony that featured a host of stars including comedian Gina Yashere and R&B and pop stars Jamelia, Corinne Bailey Rae and Lemar.

Kanya King, CEO and founder of the MOBO Awards, announced that "for its inaugural year, we wanted to ensure the first award recipient was somebody that has historical and current resonance. Given that 2007 is the 200th anniversary of Britain's abolition of the slave trade, MOBO wanted to ensure that this incredibly important issue is given the profile it deserves. Not only to remember our past but also to highlight that slavery still exists today and it is all of our

responsibility to eradicate it. Anti-Slavery International was our first choice award recipient because of the amazing work they do in the field."

Commission for Racial Equality chairman Trevor Phillips presented the Award, which was accepted on Anti-Slavery International's behalf by leading actor and supporter, Hugh Quarshie.

"The Award is both an honour and an important opportunity to increase awareness of the legacies of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and to encourage more people to get involved in the fight to end slavery today," Aidan McQuade, Director of Anti-Slavery International said.

This is the first time in its 11-year history, that MOBO has introduced a non music-based community award, which seeks to recognise an individual or organisation actively involved in positive work within the community.



Getty Images

Top: Hugh Quarshie, Aidan McQuade, MOBO's Kanya King and Western Union's AJ Hannah

Middle: Corinne Bailey Rae wins two MOBOs

Right: Gina Yashere MCs

Below: Batman Samani wins best African Act

"MOBO wanted to ensure that this incredibly important issue is given the profile it deserves. Not only to remember our past but also to highlight that slavery still exists today and it is all of our responsibility to eradicate it."

—Kanya King



Getty Images



Getty Images

Voice from the field

Romana Cacchioli/Anti-Slavery International



Anti-Slavery International's Director Aidan McQuade and Africa Programme Officer Romana Cacchioli recently returned from an exceptional trip to Mauritania. Here is what they found.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 10 YEARS ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL WAS PERMITTED TO UNDERTAKE A MISSION TO MAURITANIA. Led by our director Aidan McQuade, the mission was prompted by encouraging developments that followed the overthrow of President Ould Taya, Mauritania's dictatorial ruler of 21 years, in August 2005.

The change of government soon led to the official recognition and registration of our local partners SOS Esclaves and the Mauritanian Association for Human Rights (AMDH). Since they were founded, these organisations have worked in fear of arrest and under constant threat because slavery was a taboo subject.

The transitional government, led by Colonel Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, immediately committed itself to working towards democracy and promised to consult with civil society, human rights organisations as well as political parties. In March this year, for the first time in almost 20 years, the question of slavery and strategies for its eradication were debated in an open day sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The recommendations that resulted opened the way for Anti-Slavery International's mission.

Our objectives were two-fold. First was to strengthen ties with SOS Esclaves and AMDH and develop plans for future work. Second was to establish how others, including the Government, could assess the nature and extent of the problem. During the mission, we had meetings with President Vall and his ministers of Justice, Human Rights and the Interior, as well as local NGOs, international agencies, diplomatic missions, and representatives from political parties.

Slavery in Mauritania is founded on hereditary status, transferred from one generation to another. A slave is born to serve his/her master, treated as an inferior being, and is devoid of any rights in law.

To date, it has been impossible to establish with

Above: Matalla was beaten regularly by his slave master. One day he managed to escape. Today he lives in the capital with his family but is having difficulty finding regular work.

Below right: Lejdheiva decided to escape after being severely beaten by her master for being late from getting water. She walked for three days to freedom.

certainly the numbers of people affected by this practice, however, all of the NGOs and political parties with whom we spoke, confirmed that slavery is a considerable problem facing the country. The consensus was that slavery is a practice embedded within the historical, cultural and social fabric of Mauritanian society and that, despite several attempts to abolish slavery, it persists.

Most people we met agreed strategies for slavery's eradication should comprise a range of measures. These include strengthening the law to enable effective prosecution of those practicing slavery, the provision of economic and social programmes for the integration of those freed, and a national campaign promoting non-discrimination and human rights education.

Anti-Slavery International was particularly encouraged by being received by Mauritania's president. Although he accepted that slavery may continue to exist in remote areas of the country, he dismissed claims that it was extensive. For him, the issue of slavery is closely connected to problems of discrimination. As a result, he welcomed our offer to help find solutions for the persistence of servitude and the marginalisation of peoples based on their status.

SOS Esclaves and AMDH were also more hopeful as a result of our visit. While they continue to work under very difficult circumstances with almost no resources, they feel the process towards democracy will continue. Elections will be held in November and December offering opportunities for addressing slavery and other human rights violations.

The commitment of the political parties with whom we met is critical in pursuing the strategies needed to end slavery. We and our partners look forward to working for a future free from slavery and accompanying Mauritania on this difficult and courageous path.



To date, it has been impossible to establish with certainty the numbers of people affected by this practice, however, all of the NGOs and political parties with whom we spoke, confirmed that slavery is a considerable problem facing the country.

Campaigners from history Thomas Clarkson

Reggie Norton, Anti-Slavery International's former Chair, named our offices after Thomas Clarkson, whose significance to abolition and the fight against slavery are as relevant as ever.



THOMAS CLARKSON WAS PIVOTAL TO THE CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN TO END THE SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY.

He was born in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire on 28 March 1760, the son of a curate at the local parish. He went to St John's College, Cambridge after which he was expected to follow his father into the priesthood. Although he was ordained a deacon, events shaped his future and his place in history.

In 1784, he won a Cambridge Latin essay contest that was to change his life. The question: "Is it right to enslave men against their will?"

As he researched the subject he became immersed in the world of slavery and was appalled by what he found. "It was but one gloomy subject from morning to night I sometimes never closed my eyelids for grief," he wrote.

On his way back to London from Cambridge, he found himself consumed by the subject. "I sat down disconsolate If the contents of the essay were true some person should see these calamities to the end". A monument marks the spot above Wadesmill in Hertfordshire.

It was a year before he decided he was the person to do this, and having come to that decision he dedicated the rest of his life to the cause.

Clarkson's first act was to translate and expand his essay. In 1786, he took it to James Phillips, a printer and bookseller in London, who had already published anti-slavery tracts. He printed and sold the essay which proved popular and marked a turning point for British abolition.

Through Phillips he met other abolitionists, including Granville Sharp, and learned what they had been doing to further the cause. He decided to focus on removing the legal basis for the slave trade using public action to help achieve this. Clarkson was convinced that once the British public was informed of the true horrors of the slave trade and of slaves' treatment in the colonies, their anger could be translated into action in Parliament.

This led to Clarkson and William Wilberforce's most famous early meeting in 1787. Clarkson asked Bennet Langton, who was well-known in British society, to arrange a dinner so he could ask Wilberforce to champion the cause in Parliament. By the dinner's end, Wilberforce agreed. From then on they worked closely together.

On 22 May that year, the movement progressed when Clarkson, Sharp and 10 others met to form a committee with the express purpose of ending the slave trade as a first step towards total emancipation. Clarkson and Sharp were chosen to be its secretary and president respectively. They named themselves the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

Clarkson was determined to gather proof of slavery's brutality for his books and pamphlets and as evidence for Wilberforce to use in Parliament. Over the following seven years he travelled 35,000 miles on horseback across Britain, including the major slave ports of Bristol

and Liverpool; sometimes at risk to his life.

Through interviews with sailors who had worked on slave ships he was able to challenge the pro-slavery propaganda that the transatlantic voyage was comfortable for slaves and that they received all they needed. Clarkson showed the reality was quite different, and that conditions were so bad, that even the survival rate among Britain's sailors was poor. His remodelled image of the slave ship the *Brookes*, loaded with 482 slaves, was produced as posters in 1789. They were widely distributed to a shocked public.

Wherever he went he spoke to as many people as possible and helped inspire 1,200 groups working against the slave trade. He also regularly corresponded with 400 people to help create a movement against the slave trade, and organised 519 petitions to Parliament in 1792, encouraging 300,000 people to boycott sugar and its products due to its being produced using slave labour.

Not surprisingly, he became very ill and in 1793 had to stop campaigning for several years. During this time he married and went to live in the Lake District.

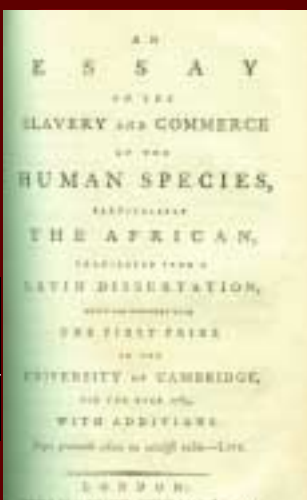
After repeated setbacks, the campaign gained strength in 1804, and finally, in 1807, Parliament passed *The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act*. Clarkson carried on his work, writing books and pamphlets and corresponding with abolitionists around the world.

With the success of the fight against the slave trade, Clarkson and his fellow abolitionists turned their attention to ending slavery. Once again, he rode across the country to raise awareness and in 1833 the Emancipation Act was passed. Despite the victory, the struggle had not ended. The Act provided a stop-gap measure called apprenticeship. In reality, this was slavery by another name. In 1838, Clarkson sent a petition to Parliament calling for an end to this system by 1 August that year. It was signed by over 500,000 people and the system was outlawed on that day 1838.

A year later the abolition campaign was expanded and the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (as Anti-Slavery International was then known) was formed on 17 April 1839, to abolish slavery throughout the world. Clarkson was elected its first president.

One of the Society's first acts was to sponsor a general convention on slavery in London. Clarkson was given a standing tribute from the 5,000 delegates and observers from nine countries who filled the Freemasons' Hall on 12 June 1840. He called for all to: "Take courage, be not dismayed, go on, persevere to the last, [ahead lies the elimination] of slavery from the whole world". His message is still relevant today.

Thomas Clarkson died on 26 September 1846 in Playford, Suffolk aged 86. To mark the 150th Anniversary of his death, a stone memorial to his memory was unveiled in Westminster Abbey just below the statue of William Wilberforce. Its inscription reads: "A Friend to Slaves".



Left: Clarkson at the general convention on slavery on 12 June 1840

Far left: The essay that changed Clarkson's life

Events & local news

Designs from celebs raise funds for charity



21st Century Leaders has teamed up with Churchill China to produce the *Whatever it Takes* range to help raise money for charity. Designs by celebrities from the world of sport, music, film and fashion are featured on mugs and plates.

Sir Michael and Lady Shakira Caine have created sunflower designs to raise funds for Anti-Slavery International.

The mugs will be available from November and the plates from Spring 2007.

To buy online see www.whateverittakes.org or visit www.churchillchina.co.uk for the list of stockists



Run the organisation they said!

On 15 October, Anti-Slavery International's director Aidan McQuade successfully completed the ING Amsterdam Half Marathon. His efforts were not in vain as he also raised £2,000 towards our work. Thank you to all who gave such enthusiastic support!

Visit www.justgiving.com/AidanMcQuade if you would like to add a donation



200 years of campaigning against slavery

1807

join us for a gala evening of excitement...

- champagne reception • delicious three course dinner & wine
- an evening of dazzling performances
- fabulous floor, silent and surprise auctions
- all night dancing to the rhythm of a live band

dress code: white tie and sparkle

from here

to here

Please complete the enclosed forms and return to:
Anti-Slavery International, Thomas Clarkson House,
The Stables Yard, Broomgrove Road SW9 9TL
t: 020 7501 8924 f: 020 7738 4110
e: y.lane@antislavery.org Thank you.

2007

join the fight for freedom campaign and make slavery a thing of the past
www.antislavery.org/2007

AGM

Anti-Slavery International's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 November at 6.15pm, before the Anti-Slavery Award ceremony at:

Chatham House,
10 St James's Square,
London SW1Y 4LE

Nearest tube:
Green Park/
Piccadilly Circus

Everyone is welcome

The Magic Ball 2006 presents –

A gala evening of elegance and entertainment on Saturday 11 November at The Ice Ball.

Join us for a:

- Champagne reception
- Three course dinner with wine
- An evening of dazzling performances
- Silent and surprise auctions
- All night dancing to the scintillating rhythm of a live band

Where: The Grosvenor House Ballroom,
Park Lane, London, W1

When: 6.00pm to 2.00am

Dress code: White tie and tiara

Tickets £125 per person, table bookings of 10 and 12 places are also available

To book your tickets or to get further information call us on 020 7501 8920

Diary of events: local/national/international



October

Now – *Prostitution: What's going on*, 31 Apr explores issues surrounding 2007 trafficking and prostitution; The Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street, London, E1 7NT

24 United Nations Day

November

11 The Ice Ball (see page 14 for details)

23- *Twenty-first Century Slavery: Issues and responses*, international conference organised by WISE Institute, University of Hull; See www.hull.ac.uk/cass/events

23- Award-winning Paul Field in concert at venues across England, explores themes of slavery. See <http://paulfield.com/php/cargo.php>

28 The Anti-Slavery Award and AGM (see page 6 for details)

28 *Trafficking and Trauma: Working with survivors of the sex trade*; central London venue TBA, see www.capitaconferences.co.uk or call 020 7808 5252 for details

29 Capita's 5th conference on *Tackling Human Trafficking*, central London venue TBA, see www.capitaconferences.co.uk or call 020 7808 5252 for details

December

2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

2 Paul Field in concert exploring issues of slavery, for details see <http://paulfield.com/php/cargo.php>

10 Human Rights Day

18 International Migrants Day

Announcement

Anti-Slavery International is looking for qualified translators who would like to volunteer their skills. We regularly need translators for our documents, mainly translating from and to English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Arabic. To apply or for more information, please email Mariela González at m.gonzalez@antislavery.org or call on +44 (0)20 7501 8920.

Events and your comments

If you have an event or comment you would like to share with other readers of the Reporter, please write to:

Beth Herzfeld

Anti-Slavery International

Thomas Clarkson House

The Stableyard

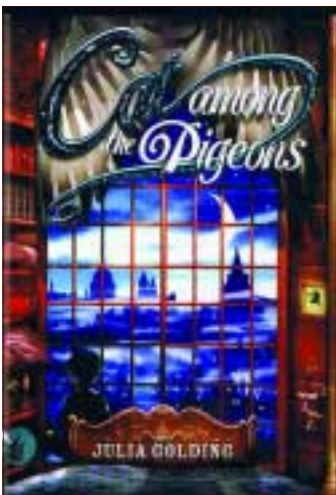
Broomgrove Road

London, SW9 9TL

United Kingdom

or email: b.herzfeld@antislavery.org

Younger readers – book review



Cat Among the Pigeons
by Julia Golding
In hardback price £6.99
ISBN 1 4052 2423 9

Julia Golding won the 2006 Ottakar's Children's Book Prize for *The Diamond of Drury Lane* in which she introduces Pedro, a runaway slave. *Cat Among the Pigeons* is its sequel, which explores the issues around the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the fight for abolition.

Our hero is a young orphan who goes by the name of Cat Royal, a ward of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, in London 1790. Pedro Hawkins is her best friend, now a talented actor whose master returns to England in order to find and recapture him. As the story unfolds we learn about Pedro's experiences at the hands of his master and of slavery, with all its horrors and gross injustices. We also become acquainted with Golding's affectionately imagined real-life abolitionists of the time, Olaudah Equiano and Granville Sharp.

But all does not go to plan. Despite Pedro's friends' best efforts and the intervention of Equiano and Sharp,

Pedro is recaptured by his master who intends to send him back to the Caribbean plantations and make an example of him. Cat has to go into hiding disguised as a boy for her own safety after attacking Pedro's slave master in Piccadilly. The pace quickens as Sharp, Equiano, a fugitive Cat, some kindly Quakers, a formidable Duchess, public schoolboys and a street gang from Covent Garden Market, band together to find Pedro before he can be shipped out of England. Will they be successful? You will have to read it to find out.

Cat Among the Pigeons is a highly enjoyable story full of adventure, likeable characters and sharp, witty dialogue. It introduces the issue of 18th century slavery and abolition to a younger audience without being heavy-handed, and champions justice and humanity without condescension – its charm may very well win over an older audience too.

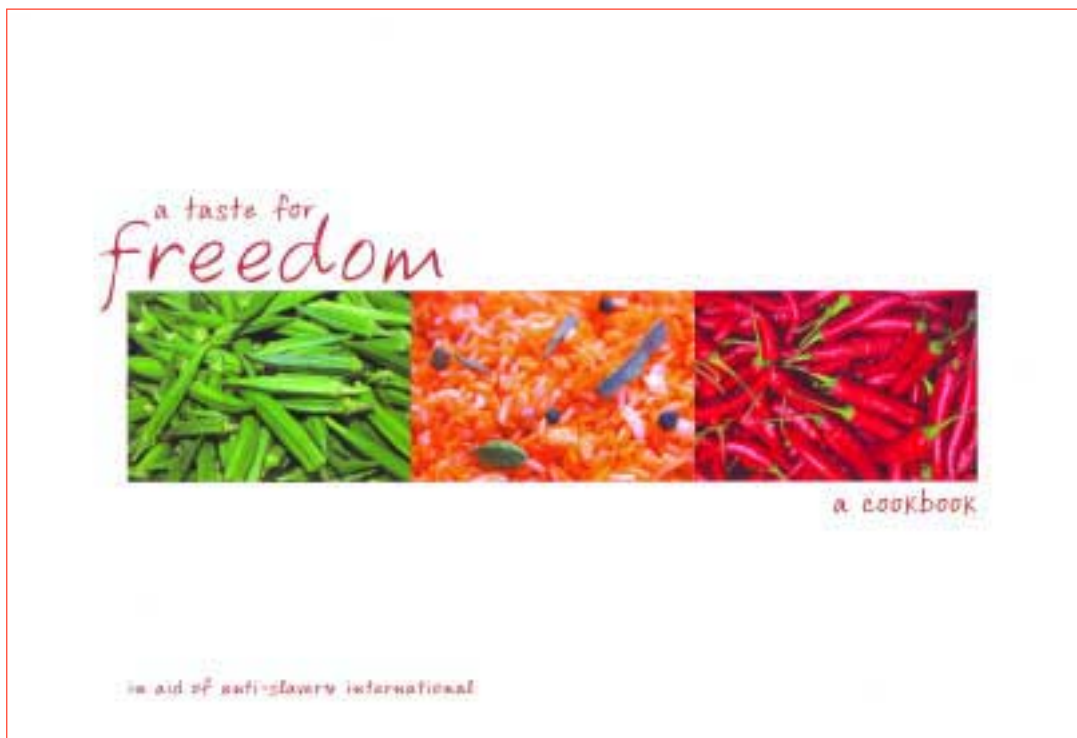
The perfect gifts for the holiday season



Anti-Slavery International T-shirt

Made from ethically produced cotton and ethically manufactured, these T-shirts are available in black or white in sizes small, medium or large. Price £12.50 plus p&p at £2.50 UK, £3.50 Europe, £6.00 rest of the world. To place an order contact Raj Dasani on tel: +44 (0)20 7501 8940 or email: r.dasani@antislavery.org or visit the 'shop' on our secure website:

www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/tshirts.htm



A Taste for Freedom cookbook

Beautifully photographed and imaginatively selected recipes by renowned chefs Vineet Bhatia and Chatter Singh. ISBN 0900918 54 3

Special offer £5.00 plus p&p for Reporter readers plus p&p at £2.50 UK, £3.50 Europe, £6.00 rest of the world. To place an order please contact Becky Shand on tel: +44 (0)20 7501 8922 or email: b.shand@antislavery.org or visit the 'shop' on our secure website:

www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/publication.htm