

Billy Maung Maung Kyaw

English 101

Date: March 05, 2019

The Flowers of Modern Slavery

Before I began my first college English class, I wasn't really aware of the immensity of human trafficking, and its' malevolent that enfolded it. As I finished reading an article about "This isn't slavery then, what is." by New York Times reporter, Nicholas Kristof, which was given by my English Professor for reading assignment, and my curiosity led me to read a couple of more articles on the Internet, that related to the trafficking issue, making me realized the contagious of sex trafficking, which is outrageously out of control. The prostitution isn't a legitimate form of work, but yet the prostitution, and child sex trafficking is growing, especially in many Third World countries. The trafficking victim like Long Pross, a girl from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, was just thirteen years old at the time, was kidnapped from her village, and sold to the brothel as a sex slave, one of the most arguably horrible forms of slavery. As a thirteen years old, who was yet to understand what is sexual intimacy, was involuntarily forced and brutally raped every single day as a sex slave. It is a result of human trafficking, with the only maneuver with cruelty and greed with viciousness. How could a human do such an inhuman act to another human being? Should we allow this insanity to continue and let it rotten our society? If so then, what kind of society do we become?

The sex trafficking is something that has been evolving for so many years, and yet, not getting enough attention. How can the world stand still in silence? Reading Pross's story make a sense that there is neither a safe place nor consciousness in this world, and at least it is indisputable fact that we are a reason, the world is crumbling and becoming more malevolent. Pross was a victim of human trafficking, in her case, she was a slave for sexual exploitation. At age of thirteen, Pross's body was still fragile, vulnerable and not fully formed to adulthood for

sexual advancement, and yet, she was tortured and sexually abused by her captors and often suffer from physical abuse at the hands of her customers. She was just thirteen years old, adolescence period, who was an unfortunate victim of “virgin” sex trade, where her innocence and dignity was stripped away by forcing her into the unmentionable act by the brothel owner. She was beaten up every day and resold four times as virgin by re-stitching up painfully by un-professionals in the brothel. Wouldn't she be terrified and emotionally wrecked by this horrific experience with all these atrocities? What kind of life would be for thirteen years old teenager? Did she deserve to have such a life like that? She would have been lived a wonderful life with a promising future, that suddenly disappeared in despair as soon as she was taken away by traffickers. Since then, she had suffered so much horrific abuse and had a sexual relationship with customers for more than 10 to 15 times a day. If it is not malevolent life, then what it is.

Sex trafficking is not an everyday topic, we are all aware of, but it is intolerable that any kind of slavery should be abolished from our society. The story of Long Pross, engrossed me, and it was emotionally tormenting. I was touched and sad, angry and frustrated. I was even mad at God for unfair treatment to those, who suffered from this repugnant act. It is in deep an unpleasant to read or write about human suffering. However, as for those human traffickers, this is nothing more than a business, treating “sex” as consumer products rather than an expression of the intimacy of human bond. From the business point of view, the huge market exist, therefore, products are made. In other words, the businesses survive because of demand is high from men, who in need of sexual pleasure for whatever reasons they may possess. Besides, sex trafficking is a highly profitable trade, especially for “Virgin” sex business, after drug-related business for the traffickers.

I am attached to this topic because my birth country was also mentioned in the story and I know how much suffering and abuse, the people are facing every day. My birth country, Myanmar used to be a military ruling state, was isolated from the world. The country was under a military dictatorship for almost 60 years. During this time, countless people had killed, and many underage girls had been suffered, and gone through like Pross, and assuming it is still happening to this very present day. But, since the new civil government was elected back in 2013, the administration has been focusing to find the solution to annihilate the sex trafficking.

The sex trafficking is not the only issue that requires more attention, there is also forced labor issue to address. A few years ago, I have heard news about Myanmar workers in the Thailand-Myanmar border, where they were treated like animals. Many Myanmar people had fled the country during the darkest period of the military ruling, to find a better life. Instead, they ended up captive by some owners of the fishing industry, who kept them in 4' x 4' cages like monkeys, or dogs, in the laboratory for experiment, but in their case, they were forced to work on the fishing boats for 16-20 hours a day, without getting paid or proper rest. They even fed them the same way they fed pigs from farming. This was just another malicious act on another human being. And yet, people from my country tried to across the border to find better opportunities. During military ruling, many children were forced labor to work with soldiers, or some were even forced to become child soldiers as young as age 12. Many underage girls were forced to become sex slaves to both soldiers and rebel groups and some were sold to the brothels like Pross, especially in the areas between Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos, called "Golden Triangle".

However, sex trafficking is unacceptable trading. The crime should be taken seriously as murder cases. As for criminology point of view, sex slavery is a statutory rape. The punishment should be severe. What if the sentence for human trafficking were the death sentence. In Philippine, when the current President Rodrigo Duterte came to office, he took an extreme solution to the country's drug trafficking problem by formed and assigned special police forces and cracked down drug traffickers. All drug smugglers who have arrested, giving extrajudicial death sentences and his administration had executed more than 13,000 perpetrators to this very day. Some human rights groups and some countries governments including the U.S criticized this action as inappropriate and claimed abuse of the human rights, but the drug crimes have decreased significantly in Philippine since the new law was introduced. What if we introduce the same punishment to sex-trafficking? What if we use the same method to crack down the traffickers and brothel owners? In human rights point of view, using death sentences as punishment for sex trafficking may seem unconvincing, but what about the victims of trafficking? Are there any human rights for those victims?

This is just a life of one sex trafficking victim, but there are many other young girls, who are suffering right at this very moment, with a glimpse of hope, and praying one day someone will extricate or take them away from this living hell. The heart of Pross's story isn't just what happened, but what this event means to us as the human being. Every sex trafficking victim has been living in such an adversity life through atrocities and extreme traumatize barbaric period, astonishingly at a very young age. Even though, Pross seems resilient, smile away again while she courageously has spoken out her life experience to New York Time reporter after she was freed, due to her gouged a right eye, caused by an angry brothel owner, for requesting time to

convalesce from her second painful abortion before she could accept customers again. However, the memory and suffering of this horrific experience will stay forever as a footprint in her brain and heart. Psychologically she will never be recovered from this terror.

The fight to end sex trafficking must not stop and require consistency and continuity, and the world needs to respond now. Because our young children of tomorrow are clearly suffering and frightened, being victimized by child sex traffickers, where their innocence is taken away by pedophiles and rapists who take satisfaction in their suffering. Hypothetically, if we can invent the self-driving vehicles or AI machines that send us to Mars, then why can't we find the solutions to this revolting crime against humanity? Perhaps, changing in social, economic, and educational development in Third World countries might help from people to think more rationally and prevent mothers from selling their kids to the brothels, even this method can be a long implementation. Or perhaps more severe punishment to those who have sexual conducts with underage children. However, it is because you are not there, doesn't mean you don't need to care. These girls are simply the flowers of modern slavery, and also promising individuals of our future generation and society. While we keep looking away from our integrity and responsibility for our community, these young girls like Pross, are lamentably becoming victims of sex trafficking, while their childhood is inevitably wilting away.

Works Cited

Kristof, Nicholas. "This isn't slavery, what is."

New York Time: New York, 2008.

Coca, Nithin. "The War on Drugs in Southeast Asia" (Online Journal)

New Naratif: Asia, 2018

Noorani, " Human Trafficking cases hit a 13 years record high, a new UN report show"

UN News, New York, January 29, 2019

Walsh, Anthony | Jorgensen, Cody. " Criminology: The Essentials - Third Edition."

SAGE Publications, Inc., 2018

