

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Institute of Political Studies
Department of International Relations

Master's Thesis

2019

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Human Trafficking in Latin America

Master's thesis

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Year of the defence: 2019

Declaration

1. I hereby declare that I have compiled this thesis using the listed literature and resources only.
2. I hereby declare that my thesis has not been used to gain any other academic title.
3. I fully agree to my work being used for study and scientific purposes.

In Prague on 31.07.2019

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References

ŠPINDEROVÁ, Zuzana. *Human Trafficking in Latin America*. Praha, 2019. 97 pages. Master's thesis (Mgr.). Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Studies. Department of International Relations. Supervisor PhDr. Radana Makariusová, Ph.D.

Length of the thesis: 150 411 characters

Abstract

This diploma thesis examined human trafficking in Latin America focusing on child trafficking in chosen countries and showed the importance of prevention. One major key point is to develop more strategies helping youngsters avoid being trapped in human trafficking. Major role is played by parents and teachers who are in daily contact with young people and can help them to develop their critical thinking. Method used in our research include case study approach, more precisely instrumental case study. Using this method, we try to illustrate the phenomena occurring in selected Latin American countries, namely the problem of child soldiers in Colombia, the criadazgo system in Paraguay, Brazil Baby Affair and the problem of illegal adoptions in Brazil, and last but not least, the issue of child sexual exploitation in Venezuela. Since these countries have different experiences and also their will to deal with the issue is distinct, it is not possible to compare their approaches to the problem. Therefore, based on our observations, we have created common factors that may contribute to increasing human trafficking in the region, as well as focusing on the characteristics of society that lead to the primary use of children and women as the main victims of this criminal activity. The aim of the thesis is to point out that in many cases these forms of trafficking are intertwined and, if there is one form of trafficking present in society, it may also lead to the use of another type of trafficking in persons over time or even at the same time. Our main focus is to show why children are one of the most vulnerable groups. In addition, we try to find out what phenomena in the society support this illicit activity and create space for its increase.

Abstrakt

Táto diplomová práca skúmala obchodovanie s ľuďmi v Latinskej Amerike so zameraním na obchodovanie s deťmi vo vybraných krajinách a poukázala na význam prevencie. Jedným z hlavných kľúčových bodov je vyvinúť viac stratégií, ktoré mladým ľuďom pomôžu vyhnúť sa tomu, aby boli uväznení v obchodovaní s ľuďmi. Hlavnú úlohu zohrávajú rodičia a učitelia, ktorí sú v každodennom kontakte s mladými ľuďmi a môžu im pomôcť rozvíjať ich kritické myslenie. V práci bola použitá metóda prípadovej štúdie, konkrétne metóda inštrumentálnej prípadovej štúdie. Pomocou tejto metódy sa snažíme objasniť javy vyskytujúce sa vo vybraných krajinách Latinskej Ameriky, konkrétne problém detských vojakov v Kolumbii, criadazgo systém v Paraguaji, Brazil Baby Affair a problém

nelegálnych adopcií v Brazílii a v neposlednom rade zahrňame aj problematiku sexuálneho zneužívania detí vo Venezuele. Nakoľko tieto krajiny majú odlišné skúsenosti a taktiež vôľu riešiť danú problematiku, nie je možné porovnávať ich prístupy k problému. Preto sme na základe pozorovania vytvorili spoločné faktory, ktoré môžu prispievať k zvyšovaniu obchodovania s ľuďmi v danom regióne a taktiež sa zamerali na charakteristiky spoločnosti, ktoré vedú k primárnemu využívaniu detí a žien ako hlavných obetí tejto kriminálnej činnosti. Cieľom práce je poukázať na fakt, že v mnohých prípadoch sa tieto formy obchodovania s ľuďmi prelínajú a ak sa v spoločnosti vyskytuje jedna forma, môže časom alebo prípadne v rovnakom čase viesť aj k zaužívaniu iného druhu obchodovania s ľuďmi. Naším hlavným smerovaním je ukázať prečo sú deti jednou zo skupín, ktoré sú najviac náchylné. Okrem toho zisťujeme aké javy v spoločnosti podporujú túto nekalú činnosť a zanechávajú jej priestor pre jej nárast.

Keywords

human trafficking, Latin America, organized crime, child trafficking, child soldiers, criadazgo system, sexual exploitation, illegal adoptions

Klíčová slova

obchodovanie s ľuďmi, Latinská Amerika, organizovaný zločin, obchodovanie s deťmi, detskí vojaci, criadazgo system, sexuálne zneužívanie, nelegálne adopcie

Title

Human Trafficking in Latin America

Název práce

Obchodovanie s ľuďmi v Latinskej Amerike

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my gratitude to my thesis advisor, PhDr. Radana Makariusová, Ph.D, for her valuable advices during the writing process of my Master's Thesis.

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List of Abbreviations

AGC: Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia)

AUC: Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (The United Self-Defenders of Colombia)

BACRIM: Las Bandas Emergentes en Colombia o Bandas Criminales

CENDAS: Centro De Documentación y Análisis Para Los Trabajadores

CICPS: El Cuerpo de Investigaciones Científicas, Penales y Criminalísticas

CIPRUNA: Comisión Intersectorial para la Prevención y Utilización de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes (The Intersectoral Committee for the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Children, Girls and Adolescents by GAOML)

CONPES: El Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social

CPI: The Parliamentary Commission of Investigation

ELN: Ejército de Liberación Nacional (The National Liberation Army)

EPL: Ejército Popular de Liberación (Popular Liberation Army)

ERP: Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo (The People's Revolutionary Army)

FARC-EP: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army)

GAOML: Grupos Armados Organizados al Margen de la Ley

ICBF: Observatorio del Bienestar de la Niñez (Observatory of Child Welfare)

ILO: International Labor Organization

INE: El Instituto Nacional de Estadística

IOM: International Organization for Migration

OMC: Organização Mundial do Comércio (World Trade Organization)

ONU: Nações Unidas Brasil (United Nations)

SNNA: National Secretariat of Childhood and Adolescents

UN: United Nations

UNHCR: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Introduction

This diploma thesis examines human trafficking in Latin America focusing on child trafficking in chosen countries making the clear distinction among many forms of trafficking in persons. As a global problem connected with other serious crimes and corruption, it has devastating consequences, both psychological and physical on children who are victims of this serious form of crime.

The first part of the diploma thesis will explain forms of child trafficking. In practice, can be distinguished different forms of human trafficking. Among the most common ones are sexual exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse, illegal adoption, forced labor or services, slavery or slavery-like treatment, serfdom, begging, child soldiers, forced marriage or trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.

In a theoretical part of the thesis, we try to outline research design with methods used in our work. One major research strategy applying to this diploma thesis is the instrumental case study. A case-study approach was adopted to provide rounded, detailed illustrations of the situation. The case-study method is one of the most practical ways to obtain a detailed understanding of the problem which occurs in the society. Data were collected to compare numbers of child soldiers in different paramilitary groups in Colombia; children trapped in criadazgo system in Paraguay; illegal adoptions in Brazil and sexual exploitation of minors in Venezuela. In case of child soldiers in Colombia, to begin the proces we started to compare motives of boys and girls which led them to join these criminal groups. The next step was to find out the exact number of children who were separated from differetnt groups of organized crime. Another important part of our research considering child soldiers in Colombia concentrates on percentage of children who joined the criminal groups in their young age. As far as criadazgo system in Paraguay is concerned, we focused mostly on observations of the society and then used results from surveys and another research. Moreover, we tried to point out to the fact that many victims of criadazgo system can eventually become victims of another form of human trafficking. Most of the time, girls who were working as criaditas are more prone to become victims of sexual exploitation after or many times also during their stay in the household they are member of. We outlined the situation that criadazgo is not criminalized under the national framework and it is not even defined in Paraguayan law. In order to understand the situation entirely, only solved cases of children who were victims of the Brazil Baby Affair were included in the study. Daily struggles of newborns who are victims of the illegal adoption cases in Brazil were examined. A total of 3 samples were

taken from a non-governmental organization called Brazil Baby Affair. The primary inclusion criteria for chosen cases were a proven connection with the Brazil Baby Affair illegal adoptions and not with the illegal national adoptions (which were also taking place at that time in Brazil) and existence of a false birth declaration registered with a fake name instead of the original one. The eligibility criteria required individuals to received inaccurate information while asking about their ancestry from the adoptive family members. The sample was representative with respect to gender. One individual was excluded from the study on the basis of not meeting the criteria for our research – during the on-going investigation it was proven that the case is part of the illegal national adoptions. The small size of the dataset meant that it was not possible to capture the complexity of the phenomenon as was planned before the start. Closer look on Venezuela consists of providing the examples of current cases where the traffickers used young girls and forced them into prostitution. Another significant part of analysis is how current situation in Venezuela forces people to leave their home and the migration flow contributes to the fact that the armed groups in Colombia and other countries are now recruiting Venezuelans. As it is shown, it is mostly because their vulnerability increases when the situation in Venezuela is getting worse.

The next part will concentrate on chosen examples from Latin America. First examined example introduces using children as combatants in paramilitary groups in Colombia. Another explained case takes place in Paraguay where children are also used as combatants but moreover there is a tendency of “criadazgo system” when indigent families have to give up their children to wealthier families adopting them and then children perform domestic work and they should be given proper education in exchange but in many cases they are abused and kept out of school by purpose. Another step is to have a closer look at the Brazil Baby Affair and illegal adoptions. Last chosen case is sexual exploitation of minors in Venezuela.

This diploma thesis shows the importance of prevention. Although all of the chosen countries adopted important treaties and protocols¹ which main aim is to eliminate human trafficking, there is still a long way until things will get better. One major key point is to

¹ U.N. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons; ILO Convention 105 (Abolition of Forced Labor); ILO Convention 182 (Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor); Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Pornography; Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (U.S. Department of State, 2016).

develop more strategies helping youngsters avoid being trapped in human trafficking. Major role is played by parents and teachers who are in daily contact with young people and can help them to develop their critical thinking.

1 Human Trafficking in Latin America

Human trafficking is not a new phenomenon, and its connection with sexual exploitation either. In Latin America, it can be connected to the end of the colonial era in which, fundamentally women and girls, were uprooted from their places of origin and used for forced labor and/or as sexual objects. Trafficking in persons as a social problem arises with force at the end of the 19th century, through the process what was called "white slave trade". The "trafficking" discourse, specifically linked to the mobility of women and their sexual exploitation, must be understood at a historical moment in which significant feminine migratory flows were taking place within Europe, and from Europe to the East, to America, and Africa, among other things, for prostitution. Between 1860 and 1901, 75% of registered sex workers in Buenos Aires came from European countries and Russia (Guy, D. 1994); English women worked as prostitutes in Belgium and other parts of Europe, and their presence was also significant in India (Walkowitz, 1980). On the other hand, most of the women who worked as prostitutes in European cities were migrants from rural areas. At that time, the first hypotheses arose that held that these movements were the result of kidnappings, deceits and coercions of innocent and vulnerable women with the objective of exploiting them sexually. The discourses on trafficking were used and dominated by the abolitionist movement of prostitution, whose struggle was focused on the eradication of prostitution, considering it a form of slavery for women, regardless of the conditions in which it occurs or the voluntariness of women engaged in it. The abolitionist movement triumphed in the international agenda through speeches and policies that crystallized in various international agreements for the suppression of the "white slave trade" that developed from 1904 to 1949, the year in which the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the "Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others". This Convention was the most important instrument against trafficking in persons until a few years ago, and continues to this day. The Convention only considered trafficking for prostitution, making other forms or sectors of exploitation now recognized invisible. In addition, it identified prostitution with slavery in any case, "incompatible with the dignity and value of the human person," and does not consider the woman's consent to work as a prostitute. Under these circumstances, every woman who traveled to work in prostitution was a victim of trafficking and sexual exploitation. By not contemplating the possible voluntariness of the "victim", the solution was to abolish prostitution. Thus, the approach to trafficking in this historical moment started

from a fundamentally moral conception of the problem. It lacked a human rights approach since it did not foresee only measures for the protection but also reparation of damages to victims. The fight against trafficking from this approach was naturally linked to the fight against prostitution (Walkowitz, 1980).

In the 80s, the interest of social researchers, feminist groups, governments and supranational institutions again aroused by the migration associated with prostitution, mainly from the prism of trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The old discourses gain strength again in the framework of transnational female migrations that increased at the end of the 70s, within which the impact of this problem seems to increase and undoubtedly become visible in almost all regions of the world. Both the modalities and the causes of trafficking have diverged in these last two decades according to the contexts of the countries of origin and destination. The increase of migratory flows: the so-called feminization of migrations responds, among other reasons, to the growing demand of workers in developed countries, to perform services that cannot be exported, such as sexual services, care work or domestic services. On the other hand, the demand is accompanied by a wide availability of women, often heads of household, who for many reasons emigrate from their places of origin: poor economic conditions or lack of expectations; situations of violence and gender discrimination; armed conflicts; wishes to travel, study abroad, etc. The problem for these women is not only, or mainly, the few options of the labor market to which migratory laws allow them access, but because these are activities traditionally assigned to women, they are deregulated, in the informal economy, and therefore, almost always outside legal protection. As normally the legal residence permit is linked to a work permit (it means to a contract), many women are excluded from the possibility of seeing their rights guaranteed as women, migrants and workers. The entry and legal residence in a country is very often unfeasible. This places them in a position of vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. When focusing on causes of sexual exploitation of children, among many indisputable ones are sexual and psychological violence or poverty; but a patriarchal and “machismo” culture present in Latin America is often overlooked. Based on the study conducted in 2009, there is an actual acceptance that seems to tolerate the behavior of men paying for sex with minors and adolescents and justifying it as a part of the culture and as a “normal behavior” of men (OIT-IPEC, 2009).

Thus, human trafficking is a crime that annually generates large amounts of money in the world and is a growing problem, precisely because of its highly lucrative and profitable

nature for different operators outside the law. Globalization created space for illicit activities to happen and made it easier for example for men's demand to buy a commercial sex or for another activities connected to human trafficking to occur. Persistence of such business is influenced by minimal consequences for traffickers. There is a low risk that these traffickers are charged for the illegal activities they are involved in. Despite the importance of international treaties and the efforts of States to combat transnational organized crime, this phenomenon competes worldwide with the trafficking of drugs and weapons (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2010).

This criminal typology implies at least three elements:

- 1) Mobilization: this element exposes the whole chain of trafficking, from the capture, transfer, whether inside or outside your country, harboring or receipt of people. In the same way, the sign of the intervention of a multiplicity of agents (buyers, sellers and intermediaries) is present and set one of the objective elements of trafficking in persons.
- 2) Exploitation: this is another of the objective elements of this crime and it sets the ultimate goal of trafficking in persons, which will at least include the forms of exploitation set forth in the article 3 of the Palermo Protocol.
- 3) Deprivation of liberty: included all actions that limit personal freedom. It should be noted that they are the most complicated to demonstrate, because they involve subjective elements laden with cultural or social relativism, which may be irrelevant or even nonsense for an individual in a particular culture, but may not be so irrelevant in another.

In this order of ideas, the context in which the victim is involved in plays a central role, where tension, threat, blackmail and verbal abuses can have intimidating or paralyzing effects on the victims of these crimes. It is for this reason that the Palermo Protocol considers irrelevant the "consent" that could be appropriated to the victim of these deviant crimes (Urrutia-Ramírez, 2018).

Nowadays, we may see that human trafficking is not defined only as sexual exploitation but there are many other forms which are dangerous in the same way and have the negative impact on the society. That is the reason why we decided not to focus only on sexual abuse but include forms of child labor; child soldiers or illegal adoptions as another examples and elements of this criminal activity. Many times, these forms even intertwine and for example sexual exploitation can be part of child labor or in case of child soldiers there is a huge probability that they are exploited by any means. The next part of the thesis concentrates on description of different forms of child trafficking.

1. 1 Forms of Child Trafficking

This part of the thesis plays an important role in understanding the phenomenon of child trafficking by describing various forms in which it can occur. We started by investigating each individual forms and in the next part of the thesis we will focus on chosen forms in various countries of Latin America.

1. 1. 1 Sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation is characterized as use of a subject against his will to provide sexual services in order to achieve monetary profit. It can be also described as a social phenomenon that implies the sexual abuse of women, girls and boys with financial advantages for one or more parties involved in the process. It involves the transfer of money, or the exchange of goods in kind or services, from one adult to another, in exchange for sex with a woman, a girl or a boy. The most common forms of sexual exploitation, in which trafficking in persons is involved, are: prostitution, sex tourism and pornography (Cacho, 2010). Within the commercial sexual exploitation is trafficking for sexual purposes understood as a practice that involves the transfer of people inside and outside their own country to exploit them sexually. It can be the result of the use of force, coercion, manipulation, deception, abuse of authority, family pressures, family and community violence, economic deprivation and other conditions of inequality of women, children and girls. Sometimes it is also recognized as "forced prostitution" (Cacho, 2010). There are several ways to obtain a victim for sexual exploitation. For example, the perpetrator of the crime pretends to be deeply in love with the victim and tries to be in a relationship with the victim², who eventually ends up accepting a job offer in another country proposed by the trafficker himself; or sometimes this kind of exploitation becomes a debt repayment, and in many cases this debt rapidly increases and is difficult to pay back (Bartošová-Urbanová, 2015). The most widespread and best known form of human trafficking is the version of sexual exploitation. When children are concerned, this is the worst and also the most common purpose of child trafficking. Sexual exploitation includes pornography, sex tourism and prostitution, which is the provision of

² The example from the countries of Latin America can be seen in a Mexican drama called *Las Elegidas (The Chosen Ones)* from 2015, where a 14-year-old girl Sofia is forced to become a prostitute, as she fell in love with a guy Ulises whose family was involved in selling girls and forcing them into prostitution. The whole story is not focused only on Sofia, who is saved by Ulises after all (leaving us with the unanswered question of whether she wanted to be saved by the boy and the family who put her into this business), but the movie is full of touching moments also showing stories of other characters (victims) and getting us closer to the possibility to really feel their desperation and powerlessness.

sexual services for a financial reward (Schavel-Číšecký-Oláh, 2010). Perpetrators of this crime have the biggest profits from sexual exploitation. Most of the young girls who are involved in the sex industry are the ones accepting “fake” work offers in the field of modeling, waitress or nursing jobs, or simply have no choice, and traffickers kidnap them and force them to be a sex worker (Naim, 2008). Sexual exploitation is not only about girls, but also about young boys. Methods, such as physical violence, imprisonment in a foreign apartment, and threats used to enforce them into prostitution, pornography and other sexual activities³. Child traffickers gain the full power over abused child through the use of different methods. Psychological pressure is the most common of all means, because no marks are visible on the victims. Another means includes beating and mistreatment or abuse that leave marks which can be easily recognized on many parts of the victim’s body. They are also threatened with violence used on their relatives; victims generally have limited freedom of movement because they are under constant inspection from the side of their traffickers or people working within the group of organized criminals and victims can also effortlessly become addicted to drugs and alcohol (Hrivnáková-Hurtišová-Babincová, 2018). Commercial sexual abuse of children is one of the method used by traffickers to gain benefits from. Abuse victims are often forced to film child pornography⁴. This is defined as the image of a child who is involved in a sexual activity, whether it is simulated or real. Children as victims of this type of abusive work are under the threat of death and suffer from psychological trauma, as they experience psychological, physical and sexual abuse daily (Milfait, 2008).

1. 1. 2 Forced marriage

Practice of forced marriage involves a woman or minor, when her right to refuse is suppressed, who is promised or given in marriage in exchange for a remuneration in cash or in any kind given to her parents, her guardian, her family or other person or group of people. There are marriages when young girls are forced into marriage by powerful criminal groups,

³ This topic is a huge challenge as it remains underreported. From collected information, we know about young boys who were sold in Afghanistan, where they are forced into prostitution. One of the examples is so-called *bacha baazi*, which can be described as a sexual relationship between young boy and older man, but it can involve other types of activities connected to child prostitution or sexual slavery. It is not uncommon that boys need to transform themselves into a woman as it is a command from their owners. It can leave them marked; so in the case they are saved they are not able to continue in their previous life (US Department of State, 2017).

⁴ In October 2014, there was a huge operation which revealed child pornography happening in Brazil which resulted in 55 people who were arrested after hacking the “Dark Web”. Earlier in the same month in Colombia, they were able to stop children from being trafficked to different countries. They were children of the age of 12, and also several people were arrested.

which act as dating agencies for having the opportunity to meet new and interesting people of the opposite sex. A number of girls coming from poorer counties agree to marry because they consider it the only chance to escape from poverty and they may have very bad luck in meeting traffickers instead of the love of their life⁵. After they are married to wealthy foreigners, young girls are forced to go to places they do not even know, where they are not familiar with the language or customs of the country. Quite often the men they have been married to have already had wives or are pimps. These young girls become slaves who face violence and are engaged in prostitution or other unpaid activity under threat. Their vulnerability lies mainly in their legal position. Mostly, they have a limited stay, which is only allowed when they are in a marriage with their partner or if the woman is financially secure and does not need any kind of support. This way traffickers can simply threaten the person with violent behavior, from which the girl cannot escape (Kubovičová, 2009).

1. 1. 3 Forced labor or slavery

From a global perspective, this is the second most common way of exploiting the victim, accounting for around 18% of total trafficking in human beings. This type of economic exploitation is characterized by two characteristics: the fact that one works involuntarily and with the threat of violence or punishment. Areas where children often become cheap labor include domestic work, illegal factories, or other sectors of the service where there are terrible conditions; where they are separated from people they know; where they are afraid of the institutions and fear of people who forced them to do the job⁶. They work for more than 15 hours a day for a whole week, unable to escape, and have to face these inhuman conditions for years (Hrivnáková-Hurtišová-Babincová, 2018).

1. 1. 4 Begging

This form of exploitation, besides poor people, elderly people, crippled people, also affects underage people too. Frequently their traffickers transport them from smaller villages to large cities in another country, where they have to be in the busiest places like bus stations, railway stations, metro or squares where they have to make money for the people who

⁵ According to data we can say that 1 out of 4 girls in Latin America has been married before the age of 18. The highest rate is for example also in Brazil, where we can observe 36 % of this prevalence rate. Getting into hands of trafficker is more probable for girls living in rural areas and in poor households often as part of indigenous groups. Early pregnancies, single motherhood or just social stigma can lead or even push young girls to hurry into informal unions (UNICEF, 2017).

⁶ This area of human trafficking is more common in countries like Peru, Chile or Bolivia. Data from 2017 collected by United States Department of Labor shows that 10,5 millions of children are engaged in child labor between the age of 5 to the age of 17 in the region of Latin America and Caribbean (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2017).

manipulate with them. They often move them from one place to another that they do not know at all. They are weak, little courageous, because they are afraid of the people who have forced them to do so, and the other problem is that they do not know anyone in the environment. They are constantly monitored, which means they live in fear and under constant pressure. The worst thing about this is that their traffickers often mangle some part of their body or cause them some physical defect to raise the greater sense of generosity in people passing by (Hrivnáková-Hurtišová- Babincová, 2018).

1. 1. 5 Child soldiers

As children in our country regularly go to school, many children in the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America are brutally fighting and putting their lives in military battles. Alarming number of 40 % of the world's armed forces using child soldiers shows us the importance of this topic⁷. Most of these children are separated from their relatives, live in an area where there are frequent conflicts or are orphans. Some of them become soldiers because of poverty and some of them are kidnapped in a massive way from their homes and from their family which members they will probably never see again. Once they get into the army, they are in a very demanding training, often ending with the death of weaker individuals. During training, they learn to shoot from weapons, and if they want to be included among other fighters, they must often shoot one of the prisoners which happens mostly under the influence of drugs. Interestingly, a third of these children's soldiers are young girls who have to survive eating less food than boys and are more likely to become victims of sexual abuse. A significant report was made by Human Rights Watch which revealed the stories of girls soldiers who were impregnated by their commanders and after the childbirth they had to fight with their child who was strapped to their backs. The use of children in armed conflicts mainly violates their rights to personal freedom, freedom of movement and residence, education, family and the right to personal development. Remaining problem is that even when these child soldiers are released, they have big difficulties to reintegrate into the community. The huge consequence of the minimal support provided is that they are very often recruited back to the military (Rosen, 2015).

⁷ There are 250 000 or even 300 000 of child soldiers below the age of 18 involved in armed conflicts.

1. 1. 6 Illegal adoptions

Human trafficking for the purpose of illegal adoption is currently considered a new type of child trafficking. This is due to the fact that many unhealthy children are often born in the world; there is a growing number of infertile couples; or couples are unable to adopt a child on the basis of the legislation in the country where they live. Therefore, there is a space for illicit activity, which leads to illegal adoptions. Although adoption itself is not an undesirable phenomenon because it brings many benefits for families and children, but by increasing the number of illegal adoptions, this process is often seen in a bad light. This is also because, instead of protecting the best interests of the child, children are kidnapped, there are many frauds going on and the practice of document modification is occurring. The primary goal of traffickers is to sell the child for as much money as they can; they usually do not care what kind of future is waiting for these children. For them, the only important thing is profit itself (Čečot, 2015).

Trafficking of children for illegal adoption occurs among newborns and it affects mainly those under 6 years. The adopters, for their part, are made up of foreigners from developed countries who go to places with high poverty rates to find minors with a very limited future. Child trafficking occurs mainly from Latin America, Asia and Africa to Europe and the United States. The reason for this phenomenon is simple, in these countries the demand for adoptions exceeds the offer, adding also the complexity of the internal procedures of each country, along with long waiting periods. Many sell their children or simply give them away, because according to them, they can only go through hunger and discomfort (Marre, 2010). However, in the vast majority of cases, the sale or bonus that parents receive to help them with their expenses is not given by couples. Behind these deliveries there is a large network of traffickers, who act as intermediaries and who profit from the innocence of the ones in need, since mothers receive minimum revenue (sometimes even never receive the promised part) while intermediaries charge large amounts of money. Mostly, as they explain this high amount of money needed, is for carrying out the paperwork of the adoption. Other modalities to get the children are: the abduction, nannies who voluntarily take them away from home; trafficking of children who were born to prostitutes; legal adoptions where they convince the parents to relocate their children to the organized group legally or going to orphanages to sell them later in the outside (Cantwell, 2003). There are also cases of foreign couples who do not use intermediaries and travel directly to get them, contacting clinics where employees and doctors operate as accomplices delivering newborn to couples by

issuing a birth certificate where they register newborns as their own using as camouflage. As already mentioned, in cases of false adoptions children are sold by their parents to the networks of traffickers, but this is not always the case. There are common delinquents or people in need who are responsible for abducting children who work in the streets or to approach families, to earn their trust by offering to take care of their children, kidnapping them in order to sell them to the networks. On other occasions, the victims are single mothers who accept the help of people who offer to accompany them and support them in childbirth in exchange for the baby (for fear of facing the situation in front of their families). It seems that the purpose of this sale is only for adoptions, forgetting other more perverse purposes for which criminals use children. Known cases in which minors are used as mules to transport drugs to other countries since, almost never arouse suspicion. There have also been cases in which smugglers have killed children shortly before the arrival of authorities and then stuffing them with drugs, to make them pass asleep without arousing suspicion. The seriousness of these cases lies in the impossibility of capturing the captors since, once the kidnappings are made, they never ask for a ransom (Marre, 2010).

1. 1. 7 Trafficking for the purpose of organ removal

Considering the fact that there are many people in the world waiting for different types of organs, this has opened the way for unauthorized trafficking for the purpose of organ removal (Naim, 2008). According to the Global Observatory on Donation and Transplantation (GODT), around 135 860 organs are transplanted annually, but actual number of interest for transplantation around the world is higher, and is estimated that about 5-10 % of the whole number of transplants in the world annually is made as illegal operations which require the payment from the patient. The most needed organs include the liver, kidneys, lungs, heart, tissues – ligaments and cartilages⁸ (GODT, 2016). Trafficking with these organs is the next form in which organized groups make money, even if this is not as frequent as cases of sexual or economic exploitation. As far as children are concerned, dealing with organs is an extraordinary case, because their organs are young and undamaged, which also results in the extremely high price of these organs (Bartošová-Urbanová, 2015).

⁸ In 2012, 75 % of the global illegal trade in organs was made up by *kidneys* (Campbell-Davison, 2012). In 2017, total amount of organ transplants reached number 8 668 from which 5 946 were kidneys' operations (GODT, 2017). On the other hand, in Venezuela last data were collected in 2015 showing us that the total amount of transplantations was 192 from which 186 represented kidney transplants (GODT, 2015).

2 Research design

2.1 Research method

An instrumental case study was used as a method for accomplishing our intention to find out why children are more in danger regarding their involvement in forms of human trafficking. Moreover, cases are going to serve as instruments to clarify these different forms of trafficking and conditions under which the issue occurred. It was necessary to process the data in such a way that we were able to answer the research questions. Since there are no specific analytical processes for case studies, each one represented to some extent an original analytical and interpretative approach (Švaříček-Šed'ová, 2014). To select a case study in research, it is important to ask “how” or “why” in the research question, moreover the researcher has no or very little control over the events and examines the current problem (Yin, 2008). Research questions which are the main aim of this work are, “Why children are one of the most vulnerable groups prone to become victims of human trafficking?”; and “Under which conditions this phenomenon of human trafficking is more likely to occur in the society?”.

The use of qualitative case studies is a well-established approach in the field of international relations. Previous studies made by Yin characterizes this method primarily on answering three basic questions: the research question, the control of the events under investigation and the topicality of the problem (Yin, 2008). There are different definitions of the case study, and after careful consideration the most useful one for our research describes the case study as a way of researching a problem based on one or a few cases in a limited system (Hendl, 2005). In our research, there is no space for the researcher to influence the events which were examined in the certain period of time, thence a case study research strategy gained insights into this problematic and provided necessary space to explore the situation which led there. The fact that the case is occurring under the natural circumstances of the case is a distinctive characteristic for many authors dealing with this method (Švaříček-Šed'ová, 2014). A case-study approach was adopted to gain a detailed understanding of various kinds of child trafficking in Latin America. This method is particularly useful in studying different conditions under which the phenomenon of human trafficking occurs in these countries. The child trafficking in selected countries was authenticated due to the natural evolution of certain events, and samples of the analysis were collected from publications spontaneously published by the actors without any artificial incentive. After identifying the research

method, specification is another process to proceed. For example, Hendl looks at the division according to the case, and our research was meant to explore events, roles, and the resulting relationships. According to Creswell, case studies can be divided into instrumental, collective or intrinsic. The definition of an instrumental case study where a researcher focuses on a problem or matter and selects one closed case that illustrates it (Creswell, 2007) is a sufficient characteristic of our case when we chose specific examples of various kinds of children trafficking in examined countries. Yin also refers to the illustrative variation of a case study when a problem is described in a descriptive manner (Yin, 2008). Based on Berg's work, we share the division of the case study into three types: exploratory, explanatory and descriptive (Berg, 2001). Again, it is important to consider how the author puts the question in research. According to Yin, the question "why" is explanatory, leading the researcher to use a case study (Yin, 2008). As with the deepest distinction between qualitative and quantitative research, as well as with the specification of case study types, there are several changing versions where it is difficult to rely on one author. This research is mainly concerned with chosen cases of child trafficking, through which it illustrates and explains the nature of one phenomenon. Each of the mentioned authors defines this case slightly different, yet our research is positioned and described as an instrumental case study for better clarification and our effort to describe why does it happen and which conditions contributed to the enlargement of the issue.

2.2 Data collection and analysis

Collecting information on child soldiers in Colombia, we decided to use instrumental case study. To begin the process, we started to compare motives of boys and girls which led them to join these criminal groups. The next step was to find out the exact number of children who were separated from different groups of organized crime. FARC-EP was the group with the greatest number of children involved. Another important part of our research considering child soldiers in Colombia concentrates on percentage of children who joined the criminal groups in their young age. With these examples, it is important to highlight that boys and girls enter the ranks of illegal armed groups, in the first place, due to the existence of an armed conflict. The violent order in which recruitment occurs eliminates any consideration of this as a voluntary and consensual act. Even though the overwhelming majority (81%) would answer that they decided to join the group on "voluntary" basis. These children are recruited, retained and forced to become perpetrators. They have no right to leave the ranks or to express their opinions.

In case of Paraguay we decided to focus on criadazgo system as it is one of the worst forms of child labor. In this system, indigenous children are most at risk, even though main motives why families decide to send their children away cannot be limited to poverty. Poverty is not a satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon whereas there are other circumstances in a society or inside of their families that lead to an increase in occurrence of human trafficking, namely violence, illness or being raised without a role model. We focused mostly on observations of the society and then used results from surveys and another research. Only children aged between 5 and 17 years were included in our study. Eligibility criteria required individuals not to receive any payment or other form of profit for their services and also they needed to be prevented from appropriate working conditions (e.g. work more than 8 hours per day, no time to rest). Children employed as domestic were excluded from the study on the basis of receiving some payment for the work which is done by them. To illustrate the result, studies were used to emphasize the importance of dealing with the issue. The study conducted in 2002 showed that 60 % of children were 13 or under 13 years old. The most recent one, from 2012, demonstrated that more than 46 000 children work under criadazgo system and 81,6 % of children involved are girls. Moreover, we tried to point out to the fact that many victims of criadazgo system can eventually become victims of another form of human trafficking. Most of the time, girls who were working as criaditas are more prone to become victims of sexual exploitation (90 % of them) after or many times also during their stay in the household they are member of. Even though there have been some improvements made in recent years, most of them have been achieved by the campaign taking place in 2003 and 2004 and also by increasing interest in the issue from the NGO sector. Nonetheless, it is possible to further improve conditions for children working under criadazgo, only when there will be an existing law enforcement to help the country to handle this matter. With this goal, this work seeks to highlight the importance of defining criadazgo in Paraguayan law. The nature of cases is decisive both in determining the method and in selecting the method of data collection. The most suitable medium for data collection was the Internet, which is the fastest medium compared to another means of information, such as print, television or radio. In addition, these other electronic media offer little or no information immediately necessary for our research. According to Yin's division, this source selection can be included in the documentation, namely the texts published in the mass media (Yin, 2008). To enhance understanding of Brazil Baby Affair and illegal adoptions system in the country, we used instrumental case studies as one major strategy in the research. A total of 3 examples

were taken from a non-governmental organization called Brazil Baby Affair. The small size of the dataset meant that it was not possible to capture the complexity of the phenomenon as was planned before the start. These case studies showed how important it is to improve living conditions and position in the society, mostly for people from marginalized groups, as they are seen as potential victims of this form of organized crime. Stories of people whose identity was taken away revealed devastating consequences, both psychological and physical, which occur in this serious form of crime. Besides, we provide the example of an NGO called Limiar, which was involved in illegal adoptions and for better understanding we illustrate the case of Marcel Paul Lee and his sister. In the end of this subchapter focused on illegal adoptions, we try to outline forced marriage and child labor as another forms of child trafficking this country needs to face. Due to small amount of information on the topic, we cannot examine these forms more in-depth.

Closer look on Venezuela consists of providing the examples of current cases where the traffickers used young girls and forced them into prostitution. Instrumental case study used in this case helped us to identify alarming numbers occurring in this matter. Victims of this crime are in 78 % girls between the ages 8-17 years old. In 2015, more than 45 000 children were involved in child prostitution, when 84-99 % of victims were women and girls. Another significant part of analysis is how current situation in Venezuela forces people to leave their home and the migration flow contributes to the fact that the armed groups in Colombia and other countries are now recruiting Venezuelans. As it is shown, it is mostly because their vulnerability increases when the situation in Venezuela is getting worse. On the basis of the mentioned above, number of victims of human trafficking in Venezuela for 2019 is estimated to reach the number of 600 000 people.

The choice of specific units of analysis and thus the identification of specific websites and discussions was a matter of deliberate choice (Berg, 2001). This thoughtful selection of the component is intended to enable attention to be given to the problem and to the relevant resource. As reported by Creswell, for case studies, units of analysis are group or individuals who participated in an event or activity (Creswell, 2007), which in our case means victims of human trafficking. According to Creswell it is necessary that researchers select individuals and places to study because they can purposefully offer information to understand the research problem and the main phenomenon in the study (Creswell, 2007). Knowing that only certain publications were published dealing with this topic gave us the

opportunity to choose them directly. The lack of relevant resources led us to use predominantly Spanish publications.

2.3 Operationalization

The entire quality of research lies on the procedure of operationalization. Concrete observations might help us to understand the phenomena occurring in the society. In our thesis, we decided to focus on 4 different countries and 4 various form of child trafficking. Evaluation of cases used in this thesis is done in chapters 4 and 5.

In the analytical part of this study, there are more cases presented in each subchapter of chapter 3. In the project of our thesis, we planned to use comparative case study, but after research being done we saw that there is no space to observe different variables and in the end we focused on summarizing similar motives and conditions under which children are more prone to become victims of human trafficking. One of the important parts for our research to be successful is to identify features according to which we can include children for our focus. When we use the determination of children, we take into consideration minors under 18 years old. Gathering information about child soldiers in Colombia, the age varies in different cases. For our research we focused mostly on children of the age of 15 or under 15; as well as we examined adults who entered the groups as minors. In criadazgo system in Paraguay, the age of children can be ranged from 5 to 18 years old. In case of Brazil, when we explain the phenomenon of illegal adoption, children used for our research were mostly newborn children. In center of our attention while explaining the sexual exploitation in Venezuela, most frequent ages of children used are from 8 to 17 years old. Special attention is given to indigenous groups that seem to be more in danger.

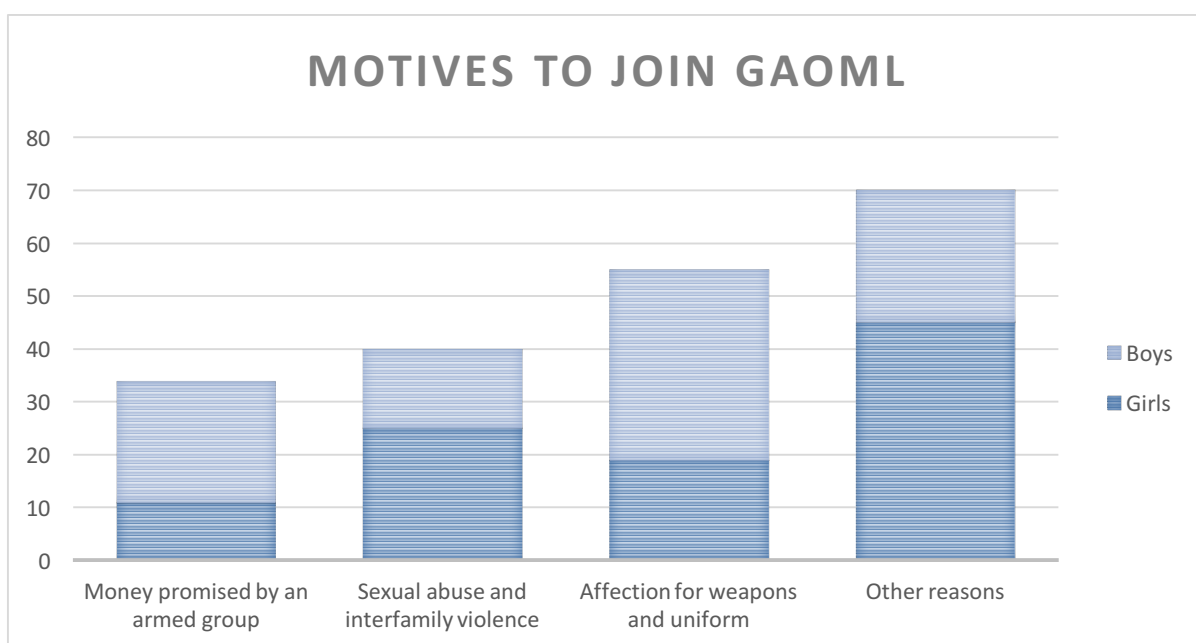
3 Cases in chosen countries

In this part of our thesis, we would like to focus on four different countries in the region of Latin America and describe the phenomenon of child soldiers in Colombia; criadazgo system in Paraguay; Brazil Baby Affair and illegal adoptions in Brazil; and sexual exploitation of children in Venezuela.

3.1 Child soldiers in Colombia

To illustrate the general picture of the recruitment of children and adolescents in Colombia and the world, as well as their prevention mechanisms in this country, then the magnitude of this event is analyzed according to gender, with a view to identifying some risk factors

around to this social category. We compare the motives which make children more vulnerable to become a victim of GAOML between girls and boys who tend to be present in armed groups in Colombia. We can notice that boys are more attracted by money offered by the armed group – 23 % of boys compared to 11 % of girls or by general affection for weapons and uniform as girls - 36 % of boys compared to 19 % of girls. On the other hand, girls are more prone to join the armed forces when they experience sexual abuse or violence with their family circle - 25 % of girls compared to 15 % of boys (Defensoría del Pueblo et al. 2006).



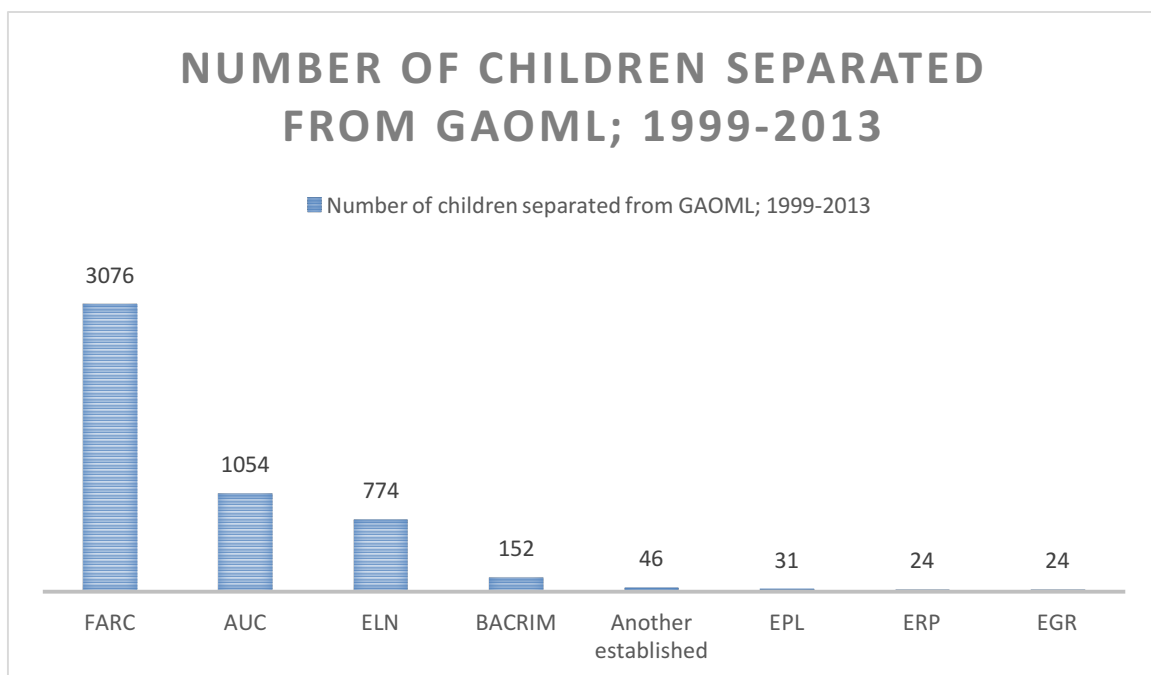
Graph 1: Motives to join GAOML. This graph is based on the source DEFENSORÍA DEL PUEBLO ET AL. 2006. *Caracterización de las niñas, niños y adolescentes desvinculados de los grupos armados ilegales: inserción social y productiva desde un enfoque de derechos humanos.*

Research on children and adolescents used by Armed Groups Operating outside the law (Grupos Armados Organizados al Margen de la Ley – GAOML) in Colombia was realized by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (El Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar – ICBF) over the period of 1999-2013 (ICBF, 2013).

Children who are victims of recruitment are used not only as combatants but also in logistical and service tasks (ILO, 1999), and many times they suffer from crimes against freedom, integrity and sexual exploitation in the context of the armed conflict. According to Observatorio del Bienestar de la Niñez – ICBF, some have been recruited through physical

coercion, and others have been manipulated, deceived and seduced by the GAOML, taking advantage of their conditions of vulnerability, such as poverty and abandonment (ICBF, 2012; PNUD, 2008). Specifically, in Colombia, there should have been between 6 000 or 7 0000 boys and girls linked to GAOML in 2002, mostly between 15 and 17 years old. FARC-EP was the group with the greatest number of children involved (UNICEF, 2002).

The official source that shows relevant progress in measuring the magnitude of the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by GAOML was presented by the ICBF. Through the “Specialized Program of Attention to Children and Adolescents Unlinked from GAOML”, they were able to measure the number of children separated from GAOML from 1999 to April 2013. Almost 5 200 children were separated from the paramilitary groups, guerrillas and Criminal Bands – BACRIM (ICBF, 2012). Following graph shows these groups which have used children for various tasks and the number of children separated from each of the group:



Graph 2: Number of children separated from GAOML; 1999-2013. This graph is based on the source ICBF - Observatorio del Bienestar de la Niñez, 2013. *Reclutamiento de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes por GAOML: una mirada a sus factores de riesgo según género.*

The separation of children and adolescents is remarkable from the FARC with 59% and from the AUC with 20%. The proportion of children and adolescents separated from the guerrilla is 76%, that is, three quarters of the total population of the whole separation process.

Although there is no definitive figure, clear assumption can be made that the children, adolescents and victims of this war crime and crime against humanity suffer various violations of their rights during their stay in the GAOML. From 1999 till the end of December 2018, the ICBF has served 6 570 children and adolescents separated from an armed group, of which 3 913 were part of the FARC, which means 60% of the victims; 1 158 (17%) of the ELN, 1 055 (16%) of the AUC, 241 (4%) of BACRIM, 51 (0.5%) of the EPL, 24 (0.5%) of the Ejército Revolucionario del Pueblo (ERP), and 104 (1.5%) of armed groups to be determined (ICBF, 2018). A study led by the Ombudsman, UNICEF and ICBF in 2006 made visible the violation of the rights to life and the integrity of the girls, boys and adolescents recruited: 84.3% used in combats, 74.8% in ambushes and 61.5% in armed attacks (Defensoría del Pueblo et al. 2006). The document CONPES 3673 of 2010 (CONPES, 2010) responds to this problem by establishing the public policy guidelines to prevent the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by GAOML. The policy establishes the integral protection of children and adolescents as a platform for prevention; essentially, the exercise of rights through comprehensive protection reduces their recruitment risks. In this framework, the ICBF helps the victims of recruitment and use by GAOML and in turn it contributes to the technical and operational bases for its prevention through its participation in the Intersectoral Committee for the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Children, Girls and Adolescents by GAOML (CIPRUNA). On these bases the “Generaciones con Bienestar” program of the ICBF, focused on 95% of the municipalities in which a high risk of recruitment and use of girls, boys and adolescents is present, according to the CIPRUNA, provides comprehensive protection for children and adolescents in order to prevent it (ICBF, 2013).

It is important to mention, that even though when we ask the boys and girls, who were separated from the armed group, how their bonding process with the group occurred, in their overwhelming majority (81%) would answer that it was on "voluntary" basis. An element present in the life of the victims of serious crimes is that they often feel the responsibility for the crime they are victims of, they tend to liberate the perpetrators of their own guilt, unable to recognize the inhospitable dynamics that led to their victimization. Psychology has deeply examined this phenomenon that prevents many of these people from becoming emancipated or escaping, especially in cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse and recruitment (Wessells, 2009). Only a small minority has the courage to admit that their cooperation with the armed group they have been linked with was by the use of force (18%). However, when

we compare the testimonies of these victims with the general account of their life history, the family history, the economic and social conditions of the municipalities of origin and the dynamics of the armed conflict in these regions, the conclusion can seem very different. Children do not associate themselves with armed groups of their own free will, nor do they have the criteria or the intellectual training to make a decision of that kind in total freedom (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2004). Nor do they enter these illegal armed groups because they do share general affection for weapons and uniforms, not because of poverty in their homes, or because they tend to be marked by a violent nature. In no case does recruitment mediate the will of boys and girls. Recruitment, in nature, is largely assimilated to the mechanisms used by mafias dedicated to human trafficking. This is an act of force, facilitated by the social and economic vulnerability of those affected, but which, in no way, would take place without the existence of an armed conflict, whose violence produces dynamics that alienate all the rights and freedoms of the communities, and drags with it, especially, the most vulnerable. Boys and girls enter the ranks of illegal armed groups, in the first place, due to the existence of an armed conflict (Sanín, 2013). The violent order in which recruitment occurs eliminates any consideration of this as a voluntary and consensual act. These children are recruited, retained and forced to become perpetrators. They have no right to leave the ranks or to express their opinions. The evident condition of poverty and vulnerability present in the profile of all the children and adolescents interviewed in the report is not decimating the responsibility of recruiters but maximizes it: the recruitment of children and adolescents is a policy directed against the most vulnerable, which takes advantage of their condition (Springer, 2012).

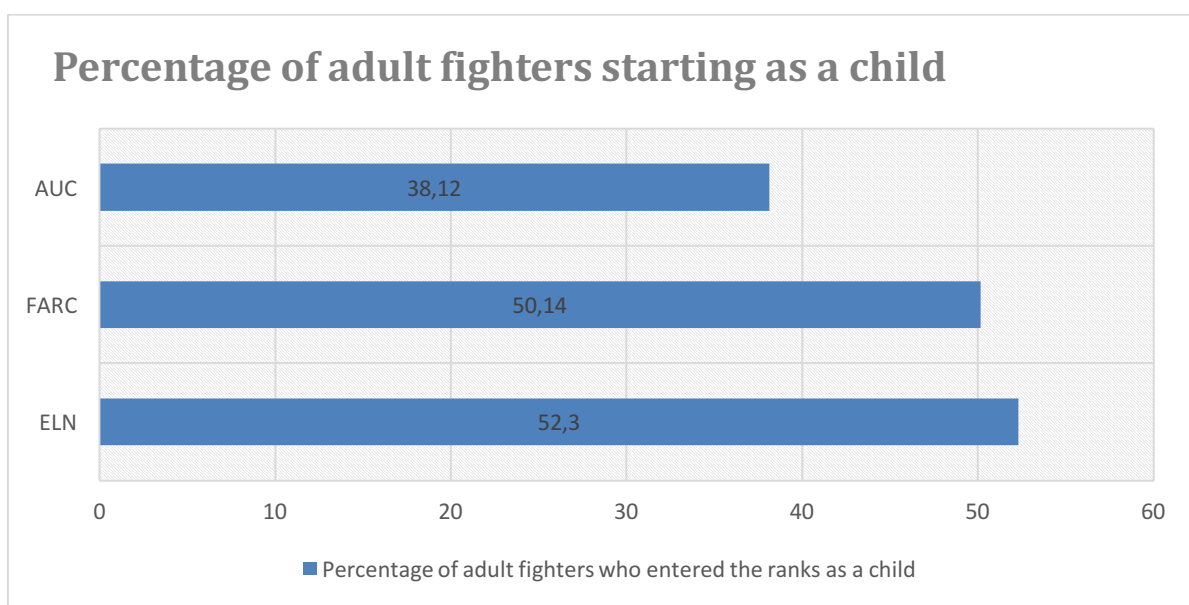
According to the National Institute of Health, the percentage distribution by gender of girls, boys and adolescents as victims of sexual violence in Colombia for 2012 was 83% in girls and 17% in boys (Instituto Nacional de Salud, 2012). Thus, a percentage association is presented between the greater proportion of girls than boys who are sexually victimized and the greater proportion of girls manipulated by GAOML for recruitment purposes (ICBF, 2013).

The proportion of separated children and adolescents is calculated in relation to the ethnic group to which they belong, in order to identify if there is a significant proportion of indigenous girls and adolescents recruited in Colombia. The recruitment of indigenous children and adolescents is also a military strategy of the GAOML. In the Pacific Region (Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca and Chocó), the recruitment of indigenous children follows

a conclusive pattern: 29% of the boys and girls recruited are indigenous, a figure nine times higher than their weight in the national ethnic composition. This pattern is repeated in jungle regions with the presence of indigenous groups, particularly in the departments of Caquetá, Guaviare and Putumayo. These results are consistent with the diagnosis of the UN in its latest report on the situation of child combatants in Colombia. As it was indicated in many reports by UN, from 2009 there was a significant increase in volatile areas, where children are more prone to be recruited by armed groups. Departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Cauca, Cesar, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Putumayo, Tolima, Valle and Vaupés are the main areas for recruitment by FARC, as well as by ELN. Moreover, some departments suffered more from the situation, and there was an increase in the displacement of local populations, mostly in the departments of Putumayo, Vaupés and Nariño. Dominant place of recruitment by armed groups were schools. As described, the regions with the highest rate of recruitment were places with indigenous children, so they became the most vulnerable group to recruitment. Another huge problem occurring was the situation of young girls who were in danger. To avoid recruitment by armed groups, young girls preferred to get pregnant to diminish the possibility of recruitment (UN, 2010). The report from 2012 highlighted the continuing recruitment of indigenous youth in the departments of Cauca, Córdoba, La Guajira, Nariño, Vaupés, Guaviare, Caqueta and Chocó. On June 4, 2010 the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the UN expressed its serious concern because Afro-Colombian and indigenous children are in a situation of special vulnerability to displacement and murder for refusing recruitment. Added the vulnerability and risk factors, an indigenous boy or girl has 674 times more possibilities to be directly affected by armed conflict or to be recruited and used by an illegal armed group or a criminal gang than any other child in the whole country. Indigenous children are the ones who best resist the difficult conditions of recruitment and this is not common for them to desert or leave the ranks. Their socioeconomic and cultural circumstances, as well as the location of their ancestral territories, coincide with the location of strategic corridors and areas of exploitation of resources (Springer, 2012).

The presence of girls is also higher than in other ethnic categories in the overall sample. According to their own testimonies, for some girls the prospect of joining an armed group is a mechanism of emancipation in a rigid, hierarchical and "macho" social structure that imposes complicated conditions on women. From the whole indigenous population used by armed groups, 35 % are girls. The population in question is used for several reasons. First,

they reside in remote areas of the municipal capitals where prevention programs of recruitment present greater coverage difficulties and in communities that do not file complaints about the situation due to its cultural alienation with state institutions (Vanguardia, 2013). Likewise, indigenous children are vulnerable to the recruitment of GAOMLs and that can be tricked more easily; because of its cultural alienation with the types of deception that are used by the GAOML. For these children, this is also a strategy of survival and escape from the burden of the conflict on their communities and this is a way how they can avoid an arranged marriage, sexual abuse, discrimination or violence and hunger in their homes. As a result, they are often used for espionage tasks because of their ability to travel long distances (El Espectador, 2010). To conclude, girls and adolescents have to face recruitment risks related to their level of vulnerability due to sexual victimization and ethnicity more often, because their condition of vulnerability as girls and / or adolescents, as indigenous and as victims of sexual and interfamily violence exposes them to the manipulations of the GAOML in favor of recruitment and subsequent use (ICBF, 2013).



Graph 3: Percentage of adult fighters who entered the ranks as a child before 2012. This graph is based on the source SPRINGER, N. 2012. *Como Corderos entre lobos, del uso y reclutamiento de niñas, niños y adolescentes en el marco del conflicto armado y la criminalidad en Colombia.*

According to data collected and presented in the report from 2012, to answer the question of how many children have been recruited by the FARC, the ELN and AUC, the databases of 10 732 demobilized adults belonging to the ELN, the FARC and the AUC were reviewed, and the age endorsed by the General Registry of the Civil State during the act of delivery was compared with the time of militancy inside the armed group. The results are conclusive, stating that: 52.3% of the adult fighters affiliated to the ELN entered the ranks of this armed group as a child. 50.14% of the adult combatants in the FARC entered the ranks of this armed group as a child. 38.12% of the adult fighters in the AUC entered the ranks of this armed group as a child. The reason why AUC have recruited fewer boys and girls is because they had better access to intercorrelate with adults and as soon as they had the financial means to pay for it, it was more beneficial for them to focus more on these group of people. In case of criminal gangs (BACRIM), no historical data were collected that would allow conclude with a high level of reliability how much this has been a sustained practice over time. As it was stated, no less than 18 000 children and adolescents are part of illegal armed groups and criminal organizations, and no less than 100 000 are linked to sectors of the illegal economy directly controlled by illegal armed groups and criminal organizations (Springer, 2012).

The phenomenon of dissident groups of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) lead us to the statement that the recruitment of children has not stopped after signing a comprehensive truce between the Government of Colombia all together with Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) in 2016. Consequently, there occurs the problem of child recruitment caused by demobilization of the armed group and the successive emerging groups persist in using children as young soldiers. The most affected areas include volatile rural areas of Amazonas, Caquetá, Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, and Valle del Cauca, as it was revealed in the report focusing on Human Rights in Colombia by OHCHR in 2018 (OHCHR, 2019).

Colombia's Attorney General's Office uncovered prone area, where the child recruitment is still a grave issue. In the southwestern municipality of Tumaco, the office observed and investigated 21 cases since the beginning of January 2017 (Human Rights Watch, 2018).

According to Human Rights Watch records, there were 10 cases in the municipality of Tumaco, when due to the attempt to recruit their children they had to leave their homes unwillingly as the FARC-EP dissident groups were actively recruiting in the area (Human Rights Watch, 2018).

As an example from the border with Venezuela can serve a group called Ejército Popular de Liberación (EPL) which was involved in child recruitment in the region of Catatumbo, placed in the northeastern region of Colombia. There were efforts to identify how many children were at stake, and as it was proven by the report issued by Colombia's Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office that 13 children were confronted with the attempt to recruit them to the armed group in the municipality of Tibú. In case of girls who became part of the armed group, they repeatedly suffered from sexual crimes which were held on them (Human Rights Watch, 2018).

Another important player in the still persistent recruitment of children are paramilitary groups, such as Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC). As an example, we can mention the report from the Human Rights Ombudsperson's Office in March 2018, where it was confirmed that AGC was active in child recruitment in the municipalities of Carmen de Darién and Riosucio, which are located in the department of Chocó (Human Rights Watch, 2018).

The recruitment and use of children for the purposes of the armed conflict is an invisible crime (the complaints do not exceed 2% of the cases in the whole territory). There is no effective early warning system and effort to protect and immunize children at risk and vulnerability that prevents the rapid evolution of the phenomenon now overwhelmed by the multiplication of criminal gangs. Boys and girls constitute an indispensable population group in the development of the economic and strategic purposes of irregular armed groups. They are chosen victims and there is a policy of these organizations to capture them. Violence has managed to impose an absolute order that subjects all other aspects of social life and suspends all freedoms, and that, drags communities without choice. There is no choice for survival, nor is there a choice to be linked to organized violence, otherwise they often end up dead (Maclurea, 2006). The frequent migration at such an early age marks the course of the moral development of these children and prevents them from expanding their social networks and joining the communities as active members, internalize rules and norms, values of coexistence, sense of solidarity, and separates them from their peers. That's why, when these children disappear and leave their communities and the school to join an armed group, nobody misses them (Correa, 2009).

In the field of International Criminal Law, punishable acts such as war crimes also include recruiting or enlisting children under the age of 15 in the armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities, whether they are armed forces or irregular armed groups.

Article 9 of the Rome Statute provides, in order to avoid conflicts in the classification of these conducts in the domestic criminal law of the States, the adoption of an instrument called Elements of Crimes in which with the participation of the States Parties the scope of punishable behaviors is defined. Therefore, *prima facie*, the definition of punishable conduct is that found in the Rome Statute. However, to conclude, the Rome Statute does not include any reflection on whether this is a voluntary or forced recruitment. Therefore, the relevant interpretation, because this is a criminal issue, is that the mere recruitment, enlistment or use of children under 15 years of age in hostilities, typifies the aforementioned punishable behaviors (Ley 418, 1997).

3.2 Criadazgo system in Paraguay

Inappropriate conditions of work in Paraguay can be seen in the Paraguayan society. As an example, we can have a look on the law that creates a space for employers to provide terms and conditions of employment to adult domestic workers which should be observed as completely illicit ones. As an illustration, solely 40 per cent of the national minimum wage is regular salary for an adult domestic worker in Paraguay; subsequently 12 hours a day may be selected for them as their working hours – instead of 8 hours; it is not part of their rights to take days off on Sundays or national holidays; and a written contract is commonly not even provided to them (Bareiro, 2005). As it was analyzed by Bareiro, adult domestic workers can legally be exploited in many ways, and on top of that, there is a huge extent in which terms of work for child domestic workers can easily relate to slavery.

The criadazgo system is a practice very extended in Paraguay that consists of the temporary placement of a boy or a girl by an indigent impoverished family to the prosperous family, in order to contribute to improving their living and educational conditions, and which normally entails a consideration of this in a concept of help in housework. In addition, the criadazgo is not recognized by employers as work, consequently there are no official records on child labor. Given that, employers often have misconceptions about their position, and they like to think of themselves as benefactors and under their influence children may have better opportunities, and the only thing expected to do in return is to help with domestic chores. As far as children are concerned, they frequently do not see themselves as victims, partly due to the preserved attitude towards criadazgo in Paraguayan society and slightly as a result of the fact that their work is unpaid (Bareiro, 2005). These children are unable to control conditions they are working in, even though conditions of forced labor are applicable for a majority of them (ILO, 2011).

Based on statistics resulted from the survey in 2000/01 called Encuesta Integrada de Hogares (Household Survey), number of children between the ages of 5-17 who were involved in some form of unpaid domestic work reached 670 137 (Céspedes, 2003). We cannot expect all of these children to be a victim of exploitative conditions which are typical for *criadazgo* system. Children assisting their parents with domestic tasks for a couple of hours a week were included in the final number. Lack of information about conditions of work, or concrete number of children who were sent to do domestic work in other people's homes making this survey deficient and incomplete and unable us to make specific conclusions.

Nevertheless, the survey provided us with some universal picture of the situation in Paraguay. Generally, we can distinguish two types of child domestic work typical for the society in Paraguay. Children who are employed as domestics and receive some payment for the work they do, they do belong to the first category, and their duties would typically include cleaning the house, preparing meals and dishes, ironing, shopping, doing laundry and care for smaller children. According to the results that appeared after the survey Encuesta Integrada de Hogares, we can estimate that there were more than 38,000 children between 5-17 who were employed in this form of domestic work at that time (Céspedes, 2003).

The second category can be defined as *criadazgo* system, when mostly indigenous children are sent to wealthier family to live and work as domestics, typically in cities. They are promised to have the access to basic education, food and accommodation in exchange for their work and completing all the duties assigned to them. These children do not receive any payment for their work and service. Children from some distinct regions are more susceptible, and it was proven by a study realized in 1994 that the estimated number of children between the ages of 5-17 who became victims of *criadazgo* was approximately 11 449, only in Asunción, which is the capital and the largest city of Paraguay (Soto, 2002). Another important study conducted in 2002 showed that nearly 60 % of children who were employed under the *criadazgo* system were 13 years old or even under 13 (ILO, 2011). The most recent statistics from 2016 by the National Secretariat of Childhood and Adolescents (SNNA) showed that more than 46 000 children work in situation of *criadazgo* system (United States Department of State, 2018). Number of girls suffering from the *criadazgo* system between 5-17 years reaches 81.6% (Child Rights International Network, 2016).

While examining the reasons, why families send their children away and make them trapped in *criadazgo* system can vary. Given the opportunity to make some money; get an education; help the famil; have access to proper food and decent accommodation in order to have a

better standard of living seem to be the main justifications by family members. Although, poverty itself may not be considered as a satisfactory explanation. Additional pull factors tend to occur when we analyze the topic. Coming from a family of multiple children, growing up without a father, occurring violence in the family or illness might also be seen as substantial factors.

Centro de Documentación y Estudios conducted research of how many child domestics did attend school, the outcome appeared to reveal that the vast majority of these children did attend school, overlooking the phenomenon of interfering their progress due to the amount of work assigned to them and they are left without any possibility to rest and reinvigorate. It is estimated that approximately 45 per cent of children worked every day and nearly 26 per cent of these children had less than two hours to rest each day (Soto, 2002).

Almost 47 000 children in Paraguay in 2016 suffered from a form of modern slavery that is known as "criadazgo". It is a form of child labor which still have its place in the Paraguayan society. During the weekend on 23rd and 24th of January 2016, a 14-year-old girl who worked as a "criadita" in a house in the city of Vaquería received a brutal beating from her "stepfather". The minor died hours later because of the internal hemorrhages that caused the blows (Fundación Acuorum, 2016). According to the former Minister of Childhood and Adolescence, Carlos Zárate, criadazgo system in Paraguay is not included in the Integrated Law against the Trafficking of Persons (Latinamerica Press, 2016). Current Minister of Childhood and Adolescence, Teresa Martínez, confirmed that criadazgo system has to be seen as a form of internal trafficking of persons, as it leaves children prone to exploitation after they are recruited and transferred to serve as domestics to other family with no payment guaranteed and they often suffer from mistreatment (Agencia EFE, 2017). Many children in Paraguay are caught in the similar situation. Without aiming to equate maidservants mechanically with trafficking of children and adolescents, it is necessary to reflect and disclose exploitative and slave-like practices that sometimes enclose. According to the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents of Paraguay, the criadazgo is without any doubt illegal and represents one of the worst forms of dangerous child labor. The truth is that it has disastrous consequences for children who suffer from it, since they are exposed to higher rates of violence and a large percentage of them are victims of different types of abuse, such as physical, labor or sexual. It is common that this practice hides many negative aspects which generate the optimal conditions for genuine exploitation of children, not only for work purposes, but it often leads to sexual activity on the part of the males of the host

family. These children are especially vulnerable to violence and abuse. While this labor and sexual exploitation is not of a commercial nature, since this is not for profit, this practice can be considered in many other cases as trafficking in persons, as it involves the recruitment and uprooting of a person to submit to situations that border on slavery. These situations are also elements themselves that deepen the situation of exploitation and deprotection of children and adolescents which becomes a risk factor to enter the commercial circuits of internal and international sexual exploitation. Cities have public spaces recognized as areas of sexual exploitation, where many adolescent victims of trafficking are exploited. For example, in the city of Encarnación, Caballero Avenue is identified as a place where girls and adolescents are victims of sexual exploitation. In Asunción, the street exploitation of girls who are trafficked is linked to motels, hotels, and discotheques, where there is no control over the age of those who enter inside. The authorities are informed about this fact, just as they know about people who work or live in those places. According to data from the organization Luna Nueva in its work with adolescents linked to prostitution, almost 90% of them have previously had experiences as criaditas (Asunción, 2011). The so-called "criaditas" are daughters of families with limited economic resources given to wealthier families who exploit them as domestic workers (IOM, 2005). Some people suggest that poverty and inequality are structural causes, while socio-cultural factors are elements that influence the problem. The UNICEF's office in Paraguay recommended to the Government of the country to classify the criadazgo like a crime in 2010 (Fundación Acuorum, 2016). Despite recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2010, a lack of legal protection for children employed under criadazgo is still present in Paraguayan society with no penalties for such a treatment (UN, 2018). Two years later was promulgated law - Ley N° 4788/2012 Ley Integral Contra la Trata de Personas, in which is explicitly stated that *"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation is considered trafficking in persons"* (Ley, 2012). Besides, in 2015, a law on domestic work was adopted, exemplifying that children under 18 years old are not allowed to engaged in domestic work, and child labor was even prohibited in 2005 by the Code on Children and Adolescents. Major issue is that criadazgo is not criminalized under the national framework and it is not even defined in Paraguayan law (UN, 2018). The problem of criadazgo has to be faced, in the first place, by the state of Paraguay. The authorities must guarantee compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Social and economic roots which seem to be one the main causes of criadazgo have to be

diminished, using the special programs developed to protect vulnerable families, such as Abrazo and Tekoporã (UN, 2018). A large campaign which included many advertisements on television, together with workshops and talks during 2003 and 2004 was able to reach more than 2 000 people. Among these people, there were also officials from the Ministry for Education and Culture and journalists (Calvo, 2004). Secondly, parents have to realize the fact that if their children work as minors, their access to education is limited, and education is a crucial factor in accessing greater opportunities for the future and may increase chances to escape from their vulnerable situation (Fundación Acuorum, 2016). Criadazgo can be described as one of the worst forms of child labor, and even though there has been made a progress in reducing the number of children employed under criadazgo, there are still many of them living in a different household far away from their parents and family (UN, 2018).

3.3 Illegal adoptions in Brazil - Brazil Baby Affair

The case of Brazil is very specific as we can easily claim according to data collected by Eurostat, that the country can be described as the second most frequent country of origin (if we focus on non-EU countries) for victims of human trafficking in Europe in the period of years 2010 till 2012 – estimated number of victims was 537 (Eurostat, 2015). Sexual exploitation within the country was even more intense during the sports events taking place in Brazil⁹. As examples, we can provide cases of FIFA World Cup in 2014 or the Olympics in 2016. In Rio de Janeiro in 2016, there was a case where 8 young girls were rescued from prostitution close to the Olympic hub (Reichard, 2016). The attention has to be paid also to the involvement of individuals in child trafficking – one of the example shows that in 2015, a woman from the South Africa tried to convince children to go and play soccer or to be a model in the city of Johannesburg. Luckily, these children were saved and they were not victims of trafficking after all (Câmara dos deputados, 2017).

According to research made before 2006, in Brazil, almost 70% of trafficking victims are poor and did not complete the first four years of basic education, while 60% of those involved in the crime of human trafficking have complete secondary education and hold a university diploma (Álvarez, 2006).

Among all of these, we would like to concentrate on the problem of illegal adoptions. Illegal adoptions in Brazil, or they are often called "Brazilian adoptions", are frequent in the region and many poor families are forced to give their children up for adoption; the trafficking of

⁹ Nowadays, *Cândido Sales* is the place with the highest occurrence of the child prostitution. This whole area is often described as "the end of the world" ("o fim do mundo").

children, and the voluntary recognition of motherhood / paternity, running away from legal requirements. According to Dr. Ferreira, the couple simply registers the child as their without any compliance with the legislation imposed by the state, and it opens the space for injustices in the poorest families, does not take into account the interests of the child and can hide the sale or trafficking of children. This criminal practice in Brazil is recognized within the criminal code but with a penalty of two to six years of imprisonment; something that should be punished with more years in prison. In October 2016, there was a change of legislation in Brazil and an amendment was approved that provided a space for prevention and repression of internal and international traffic of persons and measures of attention to victims. This new legislative framework considers illegal adoption as trafficking in persons that leads to other purposes of sexual exploitation, organ trafficking or slavery.

Minors do not disappear, they are simply not registered, as it was explained by David del Campo Pérez, the director of International Cooperation and Humanitarian Action of Save the Children. The disappearances of minors are not the matter of mafia actions only, but involve illegal maneuvers by states and governments. Refugee minors are not registered because if they are part of a registry they would be granted the right of asylum, they are only registered in a report in the place where they are. If they travel to another place, that inscription disappears, and therefore the trace of the minor disappears. Child trafficking is an extremely lucrative business where there is a product, human beings; an intermediary, the mafias; and a consumer of sexual exploitation, illegal adoptions or organ trafficking. The only way to advance in the fight against this criminal activity is to consider trafficking with a perception of illegal business. In addition, human trafficking is linked to other crimes such as drugs or weapons, and cannot be addressed separately. The impunity of crimes remains the biggest problem as most of them are not brought on trial (OMC, 2017).

One of the most abhorrent issues in Brazil is Brazil Baby Affair, as in the late 1970s and the early 1980s, many couples from Eastern Europe, Sweden or even USA or Japan were looking for a baby to adopt, but in an illegal way, and they were willing to come to Brazil to search intensively for the baby. These children were sold and it occurs as follows: a third party with a certain degree of education, intermediates all this relation, between the interested foreigner and the family interested in selling the child. This third party, using not entirely suitable means, facilitates the trafficking of this child from the country. Methods used to make this illegal adoption happen were inhuman, as they involved lying to the mother of the child, that her beloved newborn child was dead, and in reality, the child was just

“kidnapped” by a foreign couple and all parts of child’s identity were erased causing ignorance of the origin of that baby. In many cases, people who were victims of this illegal adoption still do not know the truth about their parents or place of birth, they did not have the opportunity to meet their family and relatives and to find their true-self and place in life¹⁰. There are some efforts to help these people to find their roots and their family. The criminal action related to international adoption, through article 239 of the Statute of the Child and Adolescent, received a rigorous treatment. This article prescribes that: Promoting or helping to carry out an act destined to send a child or adolescent abroad with non-compliance with legal formalities or with the purpose of making a profit: Penalty - imprisonment from four to six years, and fine. Sending of Brazilian children abroad is only allowed with the authorization of the Judicial Authority. Also, before the adoption is completed, the child will not be allowed to leave the national territory. If international adoption was done legally, the child or adolescent would go through several phases before being given to adoption candidates. They would be preparing themselves psychologically for their new social and family life, they would fulfill the stage of coexistence in their home, which is obligatory, and they would still have the great possibility of continuing to live in their country, since the child is only placed for international adoption if there are no Brazilians interested in adoption. The trafficking of children and adolescents (illegal adoptions) differs by privileging adoptive parents, with interests focused only on them, while international adoption analyzes the two sides, favoring both parties. However, with regard to child trafficking, there is still relevant need to speak about The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, with the main purpose to protect these children. This work was completed in October 1980 in The Hague. With regard to the sought protection, the focus is on the international level, in the sense of establishing ways to guarantee the child's immediate return to the country of origin, in case it becomes harmful to change the home or to have an illegal retention (Miranda, 2015). Illegal adoptions constitute violations of the rights of children, from the arbitrary deprivation of identity to exploitation through sale. An important factor behind illegal adoptions is the financial gain that can be obtained by acquiring children for adoption, especially for international adoption.

¹⁰ It was not the phenomenon only in Brazil, if we look on countries in Europe, in Spain, many nuns and doctor stole children and then they were selling the child to make a profit for themselves. All the atrocious events happened during the Franco dictatorship (Cantero, 2016).

This has created fertile ground for the acquisition and sale of children, along with other crimes that give rise to illegal adoptions (ONU, 2017).

One of the solved cases is the case of Patrick who was not aware of the date and place of his birth. Intensive search for his family began in 2001 and the huge success came in 2011 when he could finally meet with his sister. During the meeting with his sister, he found out that their mother had died in 1985. His original name remains unknown, as the name Patrick was given to him by his adoptive parents. He was also a victim of not knowing the true date of his birth. In the birth certificate it was stated that Patrick was born on 18th February but his actual birth date is 6th February. There were many efforts to put him on the wrong track, so he could never find the truth – for example, they were misleading him with inaccurate information and it can be seen as a denial of his human right to identity. He had to put a lot of effort to finally get to know his two sisters and at least get a bit of information about himself. Legal procedures against the responsible parties involved in his illegal adoption started after his case was solved (Brazil Baby Affair, 2018).

One more solved case was added to our study. It was the case of Charlotte who started to investigate more information about her adoption process in the age of 14. She spent her childhood living in France, in the capital city of Paris, with her adoptive parents, from whose her father was an alcoholic and her mother suffered from mood changes that switched between depression and euphoria. Every single question she asked about her Brazilian origin was considered ungrateful by her adoptive parents from her side. In 2012, she decided to move to Brazil and she put several charges against parties involved in her illegal adoption. Her original name remained unknown. The date of birth was probably in April or May 1987. She does not possess any information regarding her biological family. The only thing confirmed was her false birth certificate made by Maria das Dores Pinto da Monta, registered at the civil registry of Tucuruvi in São Paulo. She actively shares her story on illegal adoption taking part in panel discussions or interviews (Brazil Baby Affair, 2018).

In 2014, there was an investigation of still present illegal adoptions within the country and out of the country. The case of this year when the Parliamentary Commission of Investigation (CPI) of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil was investigating the NGO "Limiar" for its alleged involvement in cases of trafficking of children and illegal adoptions in Brazil. After having heard the testimony of a supposed victim, the president of the CPI, Arnaldo Jordy, has assured that there were elements that involved Limiar in cases of illegal adoptions. This criminal organization should be responsible for the process of illegal

adoptions and trafficking of children abroad. Representatives of the CPI heard the story of Brazilian Marcel Paul Lee, who was adopted when he was nine years old along with his sister Rachel by a US family in 1989. Both are deaf and lost their parents in Jundiaí, Sao Paulo. Paul Lee stated that, after a short stay in an orphanage, he and his sister were sent abroad against their will. In his testimony, he also noted that a person in Brazil was paid for the adoption. The NGO “Limiar” was based in the United States and had an affiliated organization in Sao Paulo, the NGO also operates in the Brazilian state of Paraná. The representatives of the organization Ulises Gonçalves da Costa and Audelino de Souza Lino denied having committed irregularities in any adoption process in front of the Parliamentary Commission of Investigation. The main goal of the NGO “Limiar” is to provide the support for orphanages in Sao Paulo for children with physical disabilities and other special needs, as this is explained on the webpage of the NGO. Donations from individuals and families who believe in their mission to help Brazilian children are the fundamental resources used by the organization (ABC, 2014).

The other area of child trafficking includes forced marriage. Available data on the topic are limited, but in 2006 the study revealed that 877 000 women between the ages 20 and 24 were married by the age of 15. Another important data collected proved that the highest prevalence of child and adolescent marriage from 2013 to 2015 was in two Brazilian states – Pará and Maranhão – young girls there were married at the age of 15 years old and frequently had their first child at the same age with a man who was on average nine years older. Most of marriages are consensual and informal and they can be risky to the health, security or education of girls. Most often consequences of such behavior are partner violence, fewer educational opportunities, early pregnancy or their social networks are cut down (Taylor-Lauro-Segundo- Greene, 2015).

Child labor in Brazil is popular in sectors such as *agriculture*, which also includes the sector of the production of coffee. A progress was made in the combat against the sexual exploitation of children, not excluding the child pornography. A campaign to stop child labor was launched with the support of celebrities in order to raise awareness of child labor within the country, using #StopChildLabor. However, we can still observe the involvement of children in the worst forms of labor, which is with no doubt sexual exploitation. The country has to face the problem of limited resources, so very often they are not able to help the child victims who were forced into prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2017).

3.4 Sexual exploitation in Venezuela

First of all, it is important to look at some of the vulnerabilities to which every Venezuelan is exposed daily due to the social, economic and legal situation in the country, especially women, youth and children, as potential victims of slavery inside or outside the borders. We can introduce few of them, starting with poverty, exclusion, low education, insecurity, unemployment, violence, etc. Another relevant and overwhelming fact is an increase in structural poverty in Venezuela for the year 2017. Chronic poverty rose from 16% in 2014, and doubled to about 31% at the end of the year 2017. Regarding the recent or temporary poverty for the year 2017 it stood at 56%. Food insecurity is present in 8 out of 10 households (ENCOVI, 2017). Poverty predominantly affects regions located in rural areas with the population consisting mainly of indigenous people. Even more alarming is the situation reported by CENDAS regarding the situation of children, 11% of the child population suffers from acute malnutrition and Cáritas Venezuela reports an increase (15%) for this year in the number of children in acute malnutrition, that in many cases have culminated with the death (Landaeta-Sifontes, 2018). According to the information provided by the INE: El Instituto Nacional de Estadística, for the year 2018, there was a number of 967 400 people aged from 16 to 24 who do not work. Another consequence of current situation in Venezuela is migration which is associated with problems occurring in the country. The Organization of American States, in the Report called "debates on Migration Policies (2016) states that Venezuelan emigration has become the third fastest growing in Latin America, registering an increase of 33% only in 2011 and 2014 (Organización de Estados Americanos, 2016). Migration flow just from Cáritas reached approximately two million people (Cáritas de Venezuela, 2017). Political chaos in the country, all together with hyperinflation and absence of food supplies led more than 4 million people to leave their homes and traffickers are in the position when they can easily take advantage of their vulnerabilities (UNHCR, undated). The next section will more closely examine the problem of sexual exploitation of children in the country. There is no common definition of the concept of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Some investigations make a strict interpretation of the word "commercial" understanding that a monetary exchange must take place to be classified as a commercial sexual exploitation of children. On the other hand, more flexible definitions have been adopted in which any type of exchange, whether monetary or any other kind, is included. However, others have suggested that it is impossible to distinguish between

commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation since one will invariably lead to the other (ILO, 2005).

In general, the most widely agreed and used definition is that contained in the Declaration and Program for Action of the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of the Children's rights. It includes sexual abuse by adults and compensation in cash or in any other kind for the child or a third person or persons. "*The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object*" (ILO, 2015, p.8) The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labor and a contemporary form of slavery (ILO, 2015).

The commercial sexual exploitation of children consists of practices that are degrading, humiliating and that in many occasions endanger the lives of children. On the other hand, child sexual exploitation is considered as a form of sexual abuse in which sexual abuse (by the client) coexists with the economic exploitation of minors (by an exploiter or intermediary). Sometimes, the abuser may be the same person who exploits the child. The exploiter obtains a benefit that can be economic, resulting from sexual relations. This phenomenon includes the use of minors in prostitution and the generation of pornographic material, and two means of access to victims of exploitation: on the one hand the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and, on the other, tourism for sexual purposes with minors. Likewise, the sexual exploitation of children is often equated with the child sex trade (ILO, 2005).

The economic crisis in Venezuela has induced desperate measures and there are those who seize an opportunity and take advantage of this weakness. The children and adolescents in Venezuela have been facing the incidence of a crime called human trafficking that takes more and more victims and that crosses borders. Carlos Trapani, general coordinator of Cecodap, explained that it has become a cross-border crime due to forced migration in the face of the crisis. Under these circumstance, there are factors that are not incongruous to the current context in Venezuela, which is why protocols and protection mechanisms must be activated in areas of risk such as borders, the coast (due to tourist activity) and in the Mining Arc, because they are prone to the exploitation and trafficking of children, mainly due to the fact that in these areas there are activities that are not supervised or controlled, and there is also the presence of organized crime groups (Orjuela, 2018). In the so-called "currutelas"

that surround the mines, there is a proliferation of sexual exploitation of women, girls and adolescents of different nationalities and ethnic origins (Moncada, 2017).

Venezuela is known for growing number of child prostitution mostly in urban areas and for sex tourism in resort destinations – Margarita Island. This sexual exploitation is not only happening within the country, but many girls are trafficked to Western Europe or Mexico. Many victims were identified in Aruba, Costa Rica, Dominica Republic, Guyana, Panama or Peru. On the other hand, in commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor in Venezuela are often involved girls from Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia or even from China. Children mostly from Ecuador are forced to work as street vendors or housemaids. Victims of this crime are frequently kidnapped, deceived by false job opportunities or even sold by their own parents. At the age of 7 years old, many of children have already been found to be sexually exploited. From the total number of children who were sexually exploited, 78 % are girls between the ages of 8 and 17. The most common practice of exploitation Venezuelans have to face is in domestic servitude by their relatives (United States Department of State, 2018). Case from November 2018 reveals that there can be people from Venezuela who were forced into prostitution at Club Platinum in Guyana. Many of children and women are threaten or they use blackmail to force them into becoming a prostitute (Kaieteur News, 2018). Another example can be child prostitution in which children are branded with tattoos by their “owners” – “Madame” or Liliana del Carmen Campos Puello. She was arrested together with another 17 suspects involved in crime of sexual exploitation of more than 250 young women and girls mostly from poor areas in Venezuela and Colombia (Graham, 2018).

There was the case of Isabel, a 13-year-old girl from Apure state, whose parents gave her to a 46-year-old man in exchange for him taking care of the family of the child who lived in extreme poverty. That, in the eyes of some locals was common for "the culture and traditions" in the society. Moreover, locals were even aware of another case when more than 100 girls and adolescents bought over several years were in landowner's power and he used them as sex slaves and for domestic chores with the consent of their parents. Few found any sense in denouncing these events that occurred with full knowledge of the regional authorities. La Asociación de Mujeres por el Bienestar y la Atención Recíproca, Ambar estimated that 45 000 children and adolescents in Venezuela practiced child prostitution in 2015 and believed that the number increased in 2016, according to an article in the Chronicle One portal (Orjuela, 2018). 4.8 millions of people were victims of sexual exploitation in

2016. Between 84 and 99 percent of the victims of slavery in the sex industry are women and girls (Zuluaga, 2018).

Having become a cross-border problem, in September 2017, an official of the CICPS: El Cuerpo de Investigaciones Científicas, Penales y Criminalísticas, spoke about the issue in anonymity with the newspaper *El Nacional*, which stated that since June 2017 child prostitution has increased on the border due to the the country's economic crisis and that international networks of sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons in the states bordering Colombia are dedicated to capturing Venezuelan girls as of 12 years of age in order to take them to other countries of the continent. Since June 2017 till September 2017, they reported displacements of entry and exit by land of girls between 12 and 14 years old, in the entire border area with Colombia. Panamanian sex trade networks are the main threat to adolescents living in poverty who agree to be exploited to survive (Franquis, 2017).

In the report *Mujeres al Límite* released in 2017 by the organizations Cepaz, Avesa, *Mujeres en Línea* and Freya, it is indicated that Venezuelan girls from poor states of the country are transferred to other states and subjected to domestic servitude, but are also taken to urban areas or tourist centers in Caribbean countries with the aim of being forced into prostitution. Aruba, Curaçao y Trinidad and Tobago are the main destinations identified for trafficking and sexual exploitation. The study adds that in 2016 the Public Ministry initiated 17 investigations related to the transnational crime of trafficking of women, girls and adolescents. However, there are no figures regarding the number of complaints received by competent authorities. Information obtained by the Venezuelan Attorney General indicates that last year that institution worked on 14 cases, but did not provide any details (Avesa-*Mujeres en Linea-Cepaz-Freya*, 2017).

In addition, the *Trafficking in Persons Report 2017* highlights that Venezuelan officials reported the increase in sex trafficking in the informal mining sector. Nevertheless, they did not involve the design of any strategy in areas where illegal mining is carried out to avoid trafficking and sexual exploitation of women, girls and adolescents (US Department of State, 2017).

Until 2018, figure showing the total number of victims of all forms of human trafficking in Venezuela rose to 198 800 persons, placing the country to the first places of prevalence of human trafficking in the world (La República, 2018). In March 2018, the *Asociación Civil Paz Activa* and the *Observatory of Organized Crime* summarized that trafficking in persons increased to 300% because the number of cases reported in 2014 reached 50 000, while in

2018 it ascended to 198 800 (Amnistía Internacional, 2018). A warning was made, that in 2019, the total number of victims could reach 600 000 (InSight Crime, 2019).

One example of human trafficking occurred in the area of Caracas and Mérida throughout the year 2018. Victims were captured by a woman who offered them domestic work in residences, and under deceit they were transferred to a villa in the Baruta municipality of Miranda state, and forced into sexual activities including recording pornographic videos. A human trafficking network was dismantled by police, leading to the arrest of 28 people. During the operation, police found victims of sexual exploitation in flagrante performing sexual activities in front of video cameras, and these videos were streaming live through a website with international access (EvTV, 2018).

Based on last events in May 2019, nine people, including six women, were arrested in the Venezuelan state of Sucre for their alleged involvement in the trafficking of people to the island of Trinidad and Tobago, that increased the number to 14 people arrested in this case in total. The arrests were made after the controversy generated by the two shipwrecks that occurred between the end of April and the middle of this May in eastern Venezuela that left several dozen people missing. All the nine detainees were charged by the Public Prosecutor for trafficking in persons and other related crimes, and one of them, Pacheco, was also charged with the crime of murder in the case of a 16-year-old girl who was drowned during the shipwreck (El Nuevo Herald, 2019). The business of human trafficking is managed by several people who mainly capture girls of 15 and 16 years to move them to the village, where they are done make up, hairstyle and dressed in new clothes to be delivered to another group that takes them to the Caribbean Island at night. Criminal groups use teachers from poor schools and neighbors to recruit girls whose families are in vulnerable economic conditions. They make attractive monetary offers, promises and gifts. Each ship loaded with victims of sexual exploitation that arrives in Trinidad and Tobago can achieve profits between US \$ 3,000 and US \$ 12,000 according to the Venezuelan deputies (InSight Crime, 2019a).

In addition, we can find the parallel between the situation in Venezuela and connect it with the criminal groups that operate in Colombia, because they are also taking advantage of the hunger of Venezuelans. Authorities from the Norte de Santander department stated that currently all the armed groups are recruiting Venezuelans. El Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), the dissidents of las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), el Ejército Popular de Liberación (EPL), Los Rastrojos and Los Urabeños use them

for various functions. In its latest report, Fundación Redes claimed that currently 60 percent of the members of these groups are Venezuelans (Fundaredes, 2018).

Another priority in the chosen country and in the region alone is the issue of child labor. The aim of this work is not to analyze this issue as a whole but this is considered one element of human trafficking and we do consider important to raise awareness about the topic as sexual exploitation can be included to this group. Last report on child labor in Venezuela was held in 2016 and the results shows that the country does not take any steps to eliminate child labor and put just the minimal effort to improve the situation. Domestic work is one part of child labor in which many children from Venezuela are engaged. When we take into consideration the forms of child labor in Brazil and Venezuela, sexual exploitation is occurring in both countries with no exception. There is no progress made on improvement and enforcement of child labor laws which often leaves space for criminal group to kidnap children and forced them to involve in criminal activities. The only effort made by the Government of Venezuela is the fact that they still give some amount of money to fund and implement various social programs in order to make a progress in improving conditions for working children and there is a bit of an aspiration to raise awareness about the topic per se. Given all information, we can just confirm that Brazil is making a progress while Venezuela is just still trying to avoid to find a solution for this inhuman area of child labor as a part of human trafficking (Bureau of International Labor Affairs, 2016).

4 Factors that contribute to Human Trafficking in the region

Based on our previous observations in chosen countries of Latin America, we can now define some factors which seem to contribute to human trafficking in the region. Two main categories may include individual factors which create the risk environment, and also outside circumstances that cannot be reversed or changed by the individual power. Individual risk factors involve “*poverty, unemployment, membership in an indigenous group, illiteracy, a history of physical or sexual abuse, homelessness, drug use, and gang membership*” (Seelke, 2016, p. 4). There can be growing tendency to become a victim of human trafficking when person belong to minority based on their sexual orientation. Many citizens of these countries can feel their only chance to escape the poverty or other difficulties their country is facing when they accept even a risky job proposal within the country or in another country. In a situation when they do not feel accepted by the society they are living in, they can hope to find better conditions in another place. They are very often influenced by what they see in

television, on the Internet, or they can be tricked by created image of some countries which want to look more attractive for foreigners. These assumptions they make are forged a number of times. All things considered, outside factors which are partly responsible for the spread of inhuman treatment and human trafficking may include the following:

1. economic, social or political crisis; humanitarian crisis – as is the current situation in Venezuela; or natural disasters;
2. essential need of domestic servants, factory workers, agricultural labor or sex workers;
3. social tolerance of machismo culture, patriarchal culture in Latin America – people are justifying discrimination of girls and women;
4. presence of systematized and organized trafficking networks which use intricate recruitment methods;
5. existence of corruption, strong connections between border agents, all together with law enforcement and their consecutive cooperation with traffickers;
6. limitation of legal migration flow and immigration policies which are restrictive;
7. government which is unresponsive to the problem of human trafficking; and
8. insufficient number of job offer for women in Latin America. In many cases, women have the same or even higher level of education as men, presence of low salaries which are inadequate to their competences (Seelke, 2016).

5 Children most at risk to Human Trafficking

Fundamental principles which can lead to the vulnerability of children to human trafficking may be sorted into various categories. There is no higher probability in any of these factors for a child to become a victim of exploitation, but we should be aware of their existence and there is a space for further research to be undertaken. Among most common risk factors which can be related to family can be included:

- 1) the absence of role model inside of family; social exclusion, when a child comes from an ethnic minority;
- 2) child who is a victim of domestic violence or is a witness of domestic violence;
- 3) being raised in a family in need where living in conditions of poverty are a significant sign they suffer from;
- 4) presence of disease, such as HIV/AIDS inside the family;
- 5) discrimination or existence of gender discrimination and inequality which creates tensions within family members;

- 6) presence of prejudices, e. g. against homosexuality;
- 7) family members who practice prostitution and they leave their children unaccompanied and are not able to influence their behavior and form their personality;
- 8) parents with low level of education and family situation where education is not valued as an important part of life;
- 9) presence of sexual abuse;
- 10) circumstances under which weakening of networks is present, such as community networks or family networks.

Another essential features which can increase the risk to become a victim of trafficking in persons are:

- A) living on the street;
- B) pressure from peers;
- C) previous experience with being a victim of other forms of child labor;
- D) being in a position when one has to face child pregnancy and early maternity;
- E) when a child is excluded from school; essential need to earn money in order to have crucial resources needed to survive;
- F) insufficient paper work and absence of personal documentation;
- G) when a child is forced to support the family due to cultural obligation;
- H) child who suffer from low self-esteem; child who is a victim of sexual abuse within the family;
- I) experiences of drug and alcohol abuse.

Circumstances when there is a presence of socio-economic risk might consist of:

- I) high rate of unemployment and poverty in the country;
- II) when child is placed to work or live close to risk environments which can be described as places with high concentration of bars, brothels, discos or other places of night entertainment or when a child is living or working on the street or slum;
- III) massive population;
- IV) situation in which child has an access to unsafe places, such as ports, borders or highways.

The last group of risk factors can be characterized as risks linked to environment. Here, can be involved:

- (1) characteristics of perpetrators who do have preferences to misuse young children and also adolescents;
- (2) presence of sex tourism;
- (3) society where prostitution is tolerated at national and also at community level;
- (4) existence of consumerism within a society;
- (5) children who are near to armed conflict zones;
- (6) presence of organized crime and corruption within the country;
- (7) when children live or work close to mining camps, military camps or large public works;
- (8) when a society accept and tolerate child labor; male superiority which is recognized as a normal behavior due to machismo culture;
- (9) insufficient laws and from that arising impunity of illicit actions (ILO, 2015).

The most frequent misleading means used by traffickers may include various kinds of threats – the most common ones are threats connected to force; another possible alternative is coercion, fraud or abduction; one of the most useful one is when a group takes advantage of the vulnerable position of children; promises of benefits or remuneration in cash are predominant in order to have control over children (Seelke, 2016).

Conclusion

The aim of the presented work was to examine different forms of human trafficking with the focus on child trafficking in chosen countries of Latin America. The reason of our focus on children was mainly to highlight that women all together with children are the most vulnerable groups to become victims of human trafficking. Overall, this work strengthens the idea that in many countries there is no effective law which would criminalize these groups of organized crime and would lead to proper consequences for their illicit activity. This study has raised important questions about the connections not only among these different forms of human trafficking, but also cooperation with other organized crime groups. As it was illustrated, in case of children, some groups use them as mules to transfer drugs to another countries as children rarely arouse suspicion. In case of Colombia, children who became soldiers in young age, even when they were separated from the paramilitary group, they are more prone to become a victim of another form of human trafficking, or other illegal activity connected to organized crime, as they spent most of their time in hostile environment and they created habits which are connected to violence and guarantee of their own survival. The society they can find themselves after separation might seem completely different from the one they were living in. Another major finding was that even after signing the peace treaty with FARC, there are still more active groups in Colombia which recruit children as soldiers or for other purposes. Boys and girls constitute an indispensable population group in the development of the economic and strategic purposes of irregular armed groups. In Paraguay, almost 47 000 children in 2016 were employed under criadazgo system. Unpaid labor is not the only terrible consequence of this situation. There is a proven link between criadazgo and sexual exploitation. Not only as a victim of criadazgo system but from adolescents linked to prostitution, almost 90% of them have previously had experiences as criaditas. The contribution on the topic of illegal adoption in Brazil, it can be stated that according to research made in 2006, in Brazil, almost 70% of trafficking victims were poor and did not complete the first four years of basic education. Moreover, the practice of illegal adoptions often involves intermediary that are not only organized groups, but in many cases these adoptions are made because of help from doctors, nannies, teachers, nuns, etc. To conclude the situation in Venezuela, until 2018, figure showing the total number of victims of all forms of human trafficking in Venezuela rose to 198 800 persons, placing the country to the first places of prevalence of human trafficking in the world. In March 2018, the Asociación Civil Paz Activa and the Observatory of Organized Crime summarized that

trafficking in persons increased to 300% because the number of cases reported in 2014 reached 50,000, while in 2018 it ascended to 198,800. A warning was made, that in 2019, the total number of victims could reach 600 000. In addition, there has to be made a progress on involvement of authorities which are aware of this illicit activity and do not take any proper action to stop it.

A situation in many countries of Latin America has influenced the development and increase of trafficking in persons. Crises, corruption, machismo society, problem of poverty create the environment in which many threats are still present, among which is also the danger of human trafficking.

More information on illegal adoptions in Brazil or criadazgo system in Paraguay would help us to establish a greater degree of accuracy on this matter. Further investigation and experimentation is strongly recommended. Unless governments of these countries adopt more effective legislation on the matter of trafficking in persons, especially in case of Venezuela, any progress on the issue will not be attained.

From the outcome of our investigation, it is possible to conclude that human trafficking is not considered a crime in many countries and that the right of victims can not be fully met with their expectations. Another important issue is that citizens do not seem to have clear knowledge and awareness of the danger of human trafficking as a crime. There were some attempts to make the situation better but there is still not enough information getting to the public. Many people do not understand that human trafficking can be describe as an economic crime in which traffickers use to take into consideration their profit versus costs they need to spend. If states try to put high penalties in case of human trafficking, there is a possibility for them to decide not to risk and it could in some way eliminate the problem. This is not applicable only on human trafficking itself, but on many other forms of crime. If they are not included in criminal codes and there are no consequences, it will still remain a lucrative business where they can earn a lot of money. As it was noted before, one important key to eliminate the problem of human trafficking is to get rid of economic vulnerability. In a sense, we need to take measures against low-paid labor to have the outreach to diminish the occurrence of trafficking in persons.

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Master's Thesis Summary

Univerzita Karlova
Fakulta sociálních věd
Institut politologických studií

Diploma thesis project

Human Trafficking in Latin America



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Academic advisor: PhDr. Radana Makariusová, Ph.D.

Study programme: Political Science

Year of project submission: 2018

Introduction to the topic

Trafficking in persons is a modern form of slavery. The reason for existing of such a phenomenon can be connected with poverty, tolerance of human rights violations, political instability, lack of awareness about the issue among public and victims, international economic relations and many others, which can lead us to emphasize the importance of the topic as such.

According to Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons (more known as Palermo protocols) is defined as *“the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”* (UN General Assembly, 2000a)

This is an extremely serious crime that violates basic human rights. Mostly it violates person's rights of movement through coercion. Besides, according to the United Nations, human trafficking is one of the most profitable parts of organized crime. From all various forms of human trafficking – sex trafficking can be considered one of the most spread forms. As it was stated in various documents by UN – women are more likely to become victims of sex trafficking. Address only sex trafficking would be a huge mistake, as we can see in today's world that we have to face many more forms of human trafficking.

We would like to focus mostly on child trafficking. It is a global problem connected with other serious crimes and corruption and moreover it has devastating consequences – psychological and physical on children involved in this serious form of crime. Many of child victims have incurable diseases as they suffer from different forms of virus diseases, others are on drugs and they become easily addicted to many distinct drugs, so after they can be manipulated and they are more likely to do what traffickers want them to do without any problem. These children have no ID which make them unable to escape and they are very often threatened by killing their relatives in case of disobedience using strong emotional aspect of these children and their powerful ties to family relatives, or they are not allowed to go out to public space in order not to have the possibility to contact authorities. Besides using

children as child soldiers, different forms of child trafficking occur. We can mention sexual exploitation, child marriage, selling children to parents unable to have their own kids, child prostitution, making pornography or children used for removal of organs.

One of the illustrated example can be the case of children using as combatants in Colombia (FARC: Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) – the group can be described as one recruiting most child soldiers in the whole world trying to fight against government. Numbers are alarming as approximately 11 000 children were trapped in the group since 1999 according to Human Rights Watch report. According to testimonies collected by human rights groups and the government, girls became sex slaves and also had to undergone forced abortions and young boys were usually used as informants, messengers or porters. Some of them joined FARC on the voluntary basis because of poverty, abuse, or being an orphan.

In Paraguay, children are also used as combatants but moreover there is a tendency of so-called “criadazgo system” which can be described in a way that indigent families have to give up their children to wealthier families adopting them and then children perform domestic work and they should be given proper education in exchange but in many cases they are very often abused and kept out of school by purpose.

Research target, research question

- 1) Why are children more prone to become victims of human trafficking?
- 2) How does the unstable situation in many countries of Latin America influence human trafficking and organized crime as such?

Literature review

While writing a thesis, we will use mostly resources from Human Rights Watch, which is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on the research and advocacy on human rights. It was founded in 1978 and the headquarter is in New York.

Another important source is Amnesty International, non-governmental organization with the headquarter in London. It was founded in 1961 and one its main aim is to draw attention to the abuses of human rights and making campaigns.

Moreover, we will use reports written by The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which is a member of the United Nations Development Group and provides developmental as well as humanitarian assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.

Publications from International Initiative to End Child Labour will help us to explain theoretical framework of child labour.

Important information can be gotten from Derechos Human Rights, which is an International human rights organization with the strong focus on Latin America. They act actively against human rights violators for their roles in so-called Dirty War (f. e. in Argentina or Chile).

Statistics are available on the webpage of International Labour Organization or International Organization for Migration.

Human trafficking Center will provide important facts sheets about the topic of human trafficking.

Department of State of United States of America wrote a report called Trafficking in Persons Report from June 2018 which will be the primary source for comparing countries in different stages of compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) from 2000. We can differentiate three kinds of countries. TIER 1 – their governments are able to fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. The example can be Colombia. TIER 2 – countries where there does not exist fully compliance with these standards for elimination of trafficking in persons, but at least they are making significant efforts to become closer to comply with the standards. Some of the countries included in this group are Paraguay and Brazil. TIER 3 – we can say that these countries not only do not fully comply with the minimum standards but even do not try to make any effort to get closer to the compliance. Typical example is Venezuela.

Conceptual and theoretical framework, research hypotheses

Conceptual and theoretical framework of work will be focused mostly on human security and also transnational organized crime. Basis for the research will be clear identification of organized crime and then specifying one concrete form of organized crime – human trafficking. We would like to take a closer look on the link between human trafficking and conflicts or unstable political situation occurring in many countries of Latin America.

Another step will be description of forced labor and slavery. As we all know, war, migration or family disintegration are often the forces leading to forced labor and slavery of children.

Slavery can be described in the form of permanent ownership, manipulation of child by another person, or “exchange trade” – it means when someone is replacing child for an amount of money. The owner of the child is then using him for his purposes or “rent” a child to a third person. Children are forced to work on plantations, in factories, they are also involved in sex and drug industry, used to weave carpets and many others.. That is the reason why we would like to find an answer to the hypothesis:

Victims of human trafficking are less adaptable into society and in case of having their own family their own trauma from their childhood influence also their children and make it harder to get well with husband/wife and then it leads to the growth of organized crime not only in form of human trafficking but for example in the way of drug trafficking.

Planned thesis outline

1. Introduction

- General introduction
- Definition and types of human trafficking and its form in child trafficking
- Methods used by traffickers

2. Conceptual/theoretical framework

- Transnational organized crime
- Human security and individualism

3. Human trafficking in Latin America

- Child soldiers: Colombia
- Criadazgo system: Paraguay
- Sex trafficking of children: Brazil, Venezuela

4. Conclusions

- Connection among various groups of organized crime
- Vulnerability of children
- Prevention according to different TIER group

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AGENCIES, NGOs, FOUNDATIONS, PROGRAMMES working on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

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 - 2) Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org
 - 3) Derechos Human Rights <http://www.derechos.org>
 - 4) Front Line, The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org>
 - 5) Human Rights Network International database <http://www.hrni.org>
 - 6) New Internationalist <http://www.newint.org>
 - 7) Anti-slavery www.antislavery.org
 - 8) Polaris Project www.PolarisProject.org
 - 9) Committee Against Modern Slavery <http://www.esclavagemoderne.org>
 - 10) Trafficking and sexual slavery <http://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today/child-labor>
 - 11) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime www.unodc.org
 - 12) Human Trafficking Search www.humantraffickingsearch.net
 - 13) Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking www.castla.org
 - 14) Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition www.bsccoalition.org
 - 15) Shared Hope International www.sharedhope.org
 - 16) International Labor Organisation www.ilo.org
 - 17) International Labor Rights Fund www.laborrights.org
 - 18) International Organization for Migration www.iom.int
 - 19) Global Workers Justice Alliance www.globalworkers.org
 - 20) International Organization of Employers www.ioe-emp.org
 - 21) World Confederation of Labour www.ituc-csi.org
- Children (forced labour and sexual slavery)**
- 22) UNICEF www.unicef.org
 - 23) International Initiative to End Child Labor www.endchildlabor.org

ECPAT International (child prostitution and trafficking of children for sexual purposes) www.ecpat.net

24) Justice for Children International www.jfci.org

25) Save the children www.savethechildren.org

26) Child Labor Coalition www.stopchildlabor.org

27) Child Rights Information Network <http://www.crin.org/resources/index.asp>

28) Casa Alianza Latina America www.casa-alianza.org

29) Child Rights Information Network www.crin.org

30) HAQ: Centre for Child Rights and Campaign to Stop Child Labour www.haqcrc.org

31) ILO: International Programme of the Elimination of Child Labour www.ilo.org/ipec/index.htm

32) Global March Against Child Labour www.globalmarch.org

33) The World Bank – Child Labour www.worldbank.org

34) Understanding Children’s Work: An inter-agency research cooperation project on child labour <http://www.ucw-project.org/>

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