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## Trends. Licit and Illicit Human Trafficking: The Ultimate Violation of Human Rights

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According to Pino Arlacchi, director general of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, trafficking in humans is the fastest growing criminal activity in the world--in fact, "the biggest violation of human rights in the world." According to Arlacchi, human trafficking encompasses individuals procured or enticed and moved across international political boundaries for sexual exploitation, economic and other variants of slavery, and forced labor and debt enslavement. He says that the recent deaths of 58 Chinese migrants smuggled into the United Kingdom was "just the tip of the iceberg."

What Arlacchi does not say is that the iceberg constitutes more than just the above-named components of illegal and illicit trafficking. It actually constitutes most legal and licit movements of people for economic motivations. These movements comprise the majority of the planet seeking a better life who employ mobility. While not directly manipulated by trafficking organizations, these people are in the throes of macroeconomic and microeconomic forces, hegemonic influences begetting ideologies, and fiercely protected false consciousnesses. One might even argue that the very labeling of trafficking organizations as illicit and illegal is but a political power technique to harm the competition otherwise engaged in providing the same services and products through more concrete and behavioral--as opposed to abstract and social psychological--methods.

In fact, the ultimate violation of human rights seems to involve the way of much of the economic world of which illegal and illicit trafficking is only a small part. However, the public promulgation of this social reality is predicted to have little effect. And even if it did, it would induce still other human rights violations based on coercion and violence by political authorities who depend on the fruits of economic labor for political power. (See Antonio, R.J. (1975). The work of R. D. Laing: A neo-Marxist, phenomenological interpretation. *Human Context*, 7, 15-38; Augoustinos, M. (1999). Ideology, false consciousness and psychology. *Theory & Psychology*, 9, 295-312; Crossette, B. (June 25, 2000). U.N. warns that trafficking in human beings is growing. *The New York Times*, p. 9; Hull, J.M. (1999). Bargaining with God: Religious development and economic socialization. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 27, 241-249; Jost, J. T., & Banaji, M. R. (1994). The role of stereotyping in system-justification and the production of false consciousness. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 33, 1-27.) (Keywords: Globalization, Human Rights, Human Trafficking, Political Power.)