Ethnic-fragmentation and Class-division of Cities Contributing to Human Trafficking and Complex Criminal Activity in Southeast Asia

Research Question:
Are there significant cultural or geographical differences in Southeast Asia that cause countries in this region to have a higher prevalence of human trafficking and complex criminal activity as opposed to other parts of the world?

Abstract:
According to the U.S. state department there are approximately 20-30 million slaves in the world today; resulting from an annual human trafficking rate of over 600,000 people every year. That means over 480,000 people are trafficked for sexual exploitation and at least 120,000 people for labor exploitation. Although the transportation and forced usage of individuals is highly frowned upon, many countries still have yet to establish the necessary laws and regulations to be able to successfully combat human trafficking. This is especially true in the one of the world’s most dangerous regions for human trafficking– Southeast Asia. This presentation will correlate the Ethnic-fragmentation and Class-division of the countries the Southeast Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia) to the higher levels of Human Trafficking and Complex Criminal Activity than is seen in more communally-cohesive parts of the world.

Primary Focus Areas for Study:
- The fragmented ethnic and class districts in the cities.
- Communication and processing information between districts.
- Ethnic Societal and cultural misunderstandings between regions.
- Low-broadcast nature of human trafficking and complex criminal activity.
- Characterization of the problem and suggested improvements to current solution methodologies.

Summary:
The ethnic-fragmentation created by early colonial settlement and regency rule in Southeast Asia has led to an increasingly separated society in which ethnic zones are becoming more prominently distinct with the influx of immigrant workers. As trade increases in these parts of the world, economic-class zones are also becoming more prominent. This hampers the effects of communication between districts and security. Human trafficking and complex criminal activity (organized crime) are prevalent do to the culture of an un-unified community under a unified form of security.

Works Referenced: