

The Global Observatory of Transnational Criminal Networks

Introduction to the International Trafficking of Organs

No. 12

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Introduction to the International Trafficking of Organs

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Disclaimer

The facts and the analysis presented herein are sustained in documents and interviews exposed in mass media and judicial records related to the criminal networks analyzed. No primary information uncovering facts has been gathered, which means that only secondary sources were consulted, from legal to media documents. In the case of the names mentioned, quoted or referenced on indictments —with the exception of those specifically mentioned, quoted or referenced in the text as definitively condemned-, the presumption of innocence, in observance of individual rights is always preserved.

The judicial truth is the jurisdiction of the courts, which by law will decide whether the defendants are innocent or guilty.¹ It is stated that belonging to, participating in, being connected to, or appearing on a network, as analyzed herein, does not imply having committed a criminal act or being engaged in a criminal enterprise. It is always possible to belong, participate, be connected, or appear on a network as an agent promoting interests that are socially and institutionally beneficial, or as a result of coercion, among other reasons unrelated to criminal acts committed by the agent.

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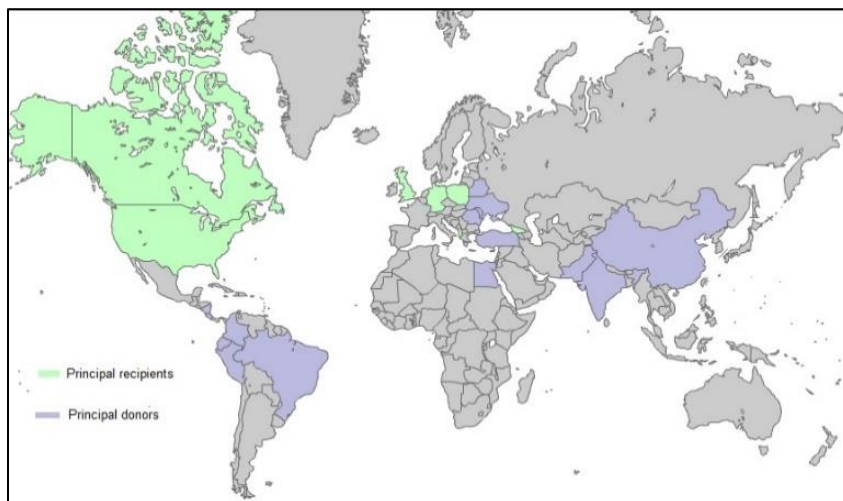
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Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to introduce the social, economic and politic background of the countries involved in international networks of organ, tissues and cells trafficking, as well as some characteristics of this illegal activity. The first part of this document is focused on the general background characteristics of the criminal market of organs trafficking. The second part covers the main supplier countries by region. The third part includes conclusions about the criminal market.

According to Emily Kelly (2013) there are two main groups of countries involved in organ trafficking criminal networks: the suppliers and the receivers of the organs, tissues and cells¹. The countries recognized as donors/suppliers are China, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Romaine, Moldova, Ukraine, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and Egypt, while the receivers of black market organs are Israel, United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Canada, Georgia and recently Kosovo. As the figure 1 shows, however, the main of the suppliers and recipient's countries are geographically close, which expedites the formation of organ trafficking networks.

Figure 1. Donors and recipients in organ trafficking



Source: Emily Kelly (2013) International Organ Trafficking Crisis: Solutions Addressing the Heart of the Matter, 54 B.C.L. Rev. 1317 (2013), Available in: <https://goo.gl/ILbfDb>

¹ Emily Kelly, International Organ Trafficking Crisis: Solutions Addressing the Heart of the Matter, 54 B.C.L. Rev. 1317 (2013), <http://lawdigitalcommons.bc.edu/bclr/vol54/iss3/17>

1. Countries Receiving Trafficked Organs

As discussed below, the primal characteristics of the countries stimulating through demand the market of illegal organs, tissues and cells are their wealth and grade of development, regarding the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme indexes and standards. Most of these countries lead the GDP² (Figure 2), GNI³ per capita (Figure 3), and HDI⁴ indicators (Figure 4). After excluding Kosovo and Georgia, these countries have the highest levels of life quality in the world. As explained below, focusing on some of these countries, their involvement in organ trafficking is therefore related to particular health conditions, organ donation protocols, and even religious beliefs.

Figure 2. GDP (2014)

Global ranking	Country	GDP (USD)
1	United States	17,419,000 million
4	Germany	3,852,556 million
9	United Kingdom	2,941,885 million
11	Canada	1,786,655 million
22	Poland	548,003 million
37	Israel	304,226 million
118	Georgia	16,529 million
147	Kosovo	7,273 million

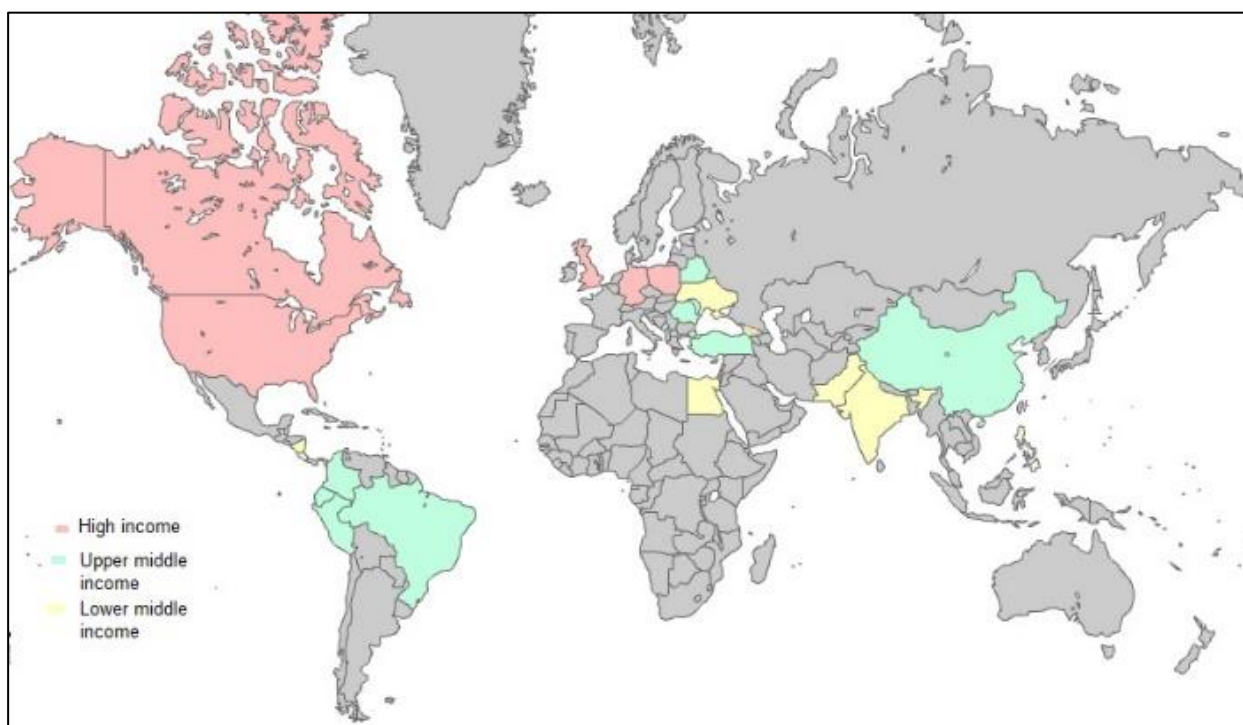
Source: International Monetary Fund. Available in: <https://goo.gl/CwyjE5>

² GDP (Gross Domestic Product) International Monetary Fund:
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2012/01/weodata/index.aspx>

³ GNI: Gross National Income World Bank: Income Level <http://data.worldbank.org/income-level>

⁴ HDI (Human Development Index) Calculated by three main components: life expectancy, education and per capita income. Consulted in: <http://hdr.undp.org/es/countries>

Figure 3. Income level based on GNI per capita (Gross National Income)



Source: World Bank, Income level. Available in: <https://goo.gl/dxdp7Z>

Figure 4. HDI (2014)

Country	HDI	Level
United States	0,914	Very High
Germany	0,911	Very High
United Kingdom	0,892	Very High
Canada	0,902	Very High
Poland	0,834	Very High
Israel	0,888	Very High
Georgia	0,744	High
Kosovo	-	-

Source: United Nations Development Program <http://hdr.undp.org/es/countries>

Israel

This is an example of a rich country in which religious beliefs influence and stimulate a criminal market of organs:⁵ Currently Israel has a 76% of the Jewish population, followed by a 17,5 of Muslims.

This country has the lowest organ donation rates: Only 8% of the Israeli population is registered as donors of organs. However, Israel is simultaneously the principal receiver of organs, tissues and cells through transplant tourism. In this particular case, one of the main reasons for the low rates of donation is apparently related to religious beliefs that reject transplantation and deceased donation in particular.⁶ However, according to the Israeli Health Ministry, since 2010 the registered donors increased, when living donors began receiving a compensation of several thousand shekels. Additionally, in 2012 the amendment to the Organ Implantation Law, 5768-2008, established priority to registered donors if they need a transplant.⁷

However, the regulation of organ donation (5768-2008) did not prohibit organ transplantation conducted outside of Israel. Therefore, the enforcement against potential black market generated by Israeli population relies on laws of foreign countries⁸ that usually do not exhaustively watch and condemn organ trafficking. According to a New York Times investigative report on global organ trade, Israelis play a relevant role in this criminal activity, with brokers arranging kidney transplants at costs above USD\$ 100,000, usually with donors from Latin America. Africa and Eastern Europe. The operation usually is performed through transplantation tourism, in a third country such as Sri Lanka.⁹

Regarding other criminal besides organ trafficking, Israel is currently also a money-laundering center for drug trafficking. Also, the market of illicit drugs such as ecstasy,

⁵ In Israel the strongest economical sector is industry, especially the manufacturing products based on technological innovation as medical electronics, telecommunications and computer hardware and software In Brief. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. <https://goo.gl/NRdiQT>

⁶ "Organ donation, transplantation and religion" In: Nephrol Dial Transplantation Oliver, Michael; Woywodt, Alexander; Aimun, Ahmed, and Saif Imran (2010) Available in: <https://goo.gl/2GFGmN>

⁷ NYT Finds "Disproportionate Role" of Israelis in World Organ Trafficking: Haaretz. Available in: <https://goo.gl/VimVOY>

⁸ The declaration of Istanbul on Organ Trafficking and Transplantation Tourism: Israel Transplanting Law 2008. Available in: <https://goo.gl/AGG6LB>

⁹ Ynetnews: Report. Israelis key players in "cash for kidneys" black market. Available in: <https://goo.gl/d7mcV4>

cocaine and heroin have increased in the past years, favoring the establishment of criminal networks that can participate in various criminal markets.

Unites States

According to the Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS), the national waiting list for organ donations, that already has over 100,000 names, increases every month on more than 2,000 patients¹⁰. The number of people needing organs exceeds the legal supply, leading patients to obtain the organ through the black market or abroad.

The measures implemented by the United States to increase the number of registered donors, like “Donor Designation Collaborative” in 2007 and the “End the Wait” campaign in 2009¹¹, have been ineffective to fight organ trafficking.¹² Also, the demand for organs continues to rise due to the increasing amount of ill people, so even with new regulations aimed at increasing the number of local donors, the number of people with diseases is even higher. In part, the focus on increasing the registered donors but not on preventing avoidable diseases such as diabetes explains why people opt for a black market of organs, tissues and cells, not only in the Unites States, but also in the United Kingdom, Germany and Poland. Diabetes and other diseases that affect specific organs such as kidneys, are a critical problem in the United States. In fact, it has been reported that “(...) the median wait time for an adult is more than four years, and more than 4,000 die to wait each year”¹³.

Regarding other criminal activities, besides organ trafficking, the United States is also the largest consumer of Colombian and Mexican cocaine and heroin. Currently, the United States government collaborates with surrounding countries to monitor and control legal and illegal personnel, transport and commodities, especially in the international trade with Canada and Mexico¹⁴. However, organ traffickers may be taking advantage of already existing criminal networks, given the intense drug trafficking and criminal activity between

¹⁰ Michelle Beshears, The Rise of Black Market Organ Trafficking. Available in: <https://goo.gl/mQyWjv>

¹¹ Organ Donor: Timeline of Historical Events Significant Milestones in Organ Donation and Transplantation. Available in: <https://goo.gl/U5f0CJ>

¹² Michelle Beshears, The Rise of Black Market Organ Trafficking. Available in: <https://goo.gl/rdl4g1>

¹³ Sack, Kevin (2014), *Transplant Brokers in Israel Lure Desperate Kidney Patients to Costa Rica*, Available in: <https://goo.gl/CTOfhQ>

¹⁴ The World Factbook – CIA 2014 -2015. Available in: <https://goo.gl/BzOM6G>

the United States and Mexico. In March of 2014, for example, a member of the Mexican Criminal Network known as “Knights Templar” [*Caballeros Templarios*] was arrested in Michoacán, suspected of kidnapping children for organ trafficking¹⁵.

United Kingdom¹⁶

A government report in the UK showed that the number of victims of human trafficking, in some cases related to organ removal, increased more than 50% between 2012 and 2013. Additionally, approximately 371 children were exploited and most of them were used as slaves and sexual slaves in the country. The home countries of these children were mainly China, Nigeria and Eastern Europe countries such as Romania and Bulgaria. Also, the number of women trafficked to the UK increased during this period.¹⁷

Besides the relevant involvement of the United Kingdom as a receptor of human trafficking associated with organ trafficking, slavery or sexual abuse, this country is also a producer of limited amounts of synthetic drugs and synthetic precursor chemicals. Additionally, the UK is identified as a money-laundering center¹⁸, while European wealthy countries such as Germany and Poland are hot spots for drug trafficking, money laundering and human trade.

Kosovo¹⁹

Kosovo has a relevant presence of Islam, with a 95,6% of Muslim population. Therefore, the increasing participation of this country as a receiver of organ trafficking relates to religious beliefs, since Islam is one of the faiths with strongest opinions against organ donation. In fact, although these beliefs have changed in the past years in countries such

¹⁵ Huffington Post: Child Organ Harvesting and Trafficking- Linked Arrest Made in Mexico. Available in: <https://goo.gl/BLZF7P>

¹⁶ United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy. The strongest economy sector is the service sector, especially the financial one. Also, “aerospace industry, pharmaceuticals, automotive industry, and North Sea oil and gas production constitute the greatest portion of the remainder of the UK’s GDP”. Economy Watch: United Kingdom Economy. Available in: <https://goo.gl/gMY27t>

¹⁷ The Telegraph: Girl Smuggled into Britain to have her organs harvested. October 18, 2013. Available in: <https://goo.gl/3Wjr5g>

¹⁸ The World Factbook – CIA 2014 -2015. Available in: <https://goo.gl/L1oVCP>

¹⁹ The government of Kosovo is a parliamentary republic. It is considered the poorest country in Europe, and still highly dependent on the international community for assistance in financial and technical issues. Mineral and metals as zinc, nickel, chrome, magnesium and aluminum, formed the strong head of industry, but over the years it has declined because the lack of investment. Index mundi: Kosovo Economy Profile 2014. Available in: <https://goo.gl/PBWqgi>

as Egypt and Turkey, the negative perception on organ donation are still an obstacle for citizens registering as donors. As a result, the foreign demand for organs through black markets remains.

Furthermore, Kosovo participated in the past also as a supplier of organs. As the Journalist Michele Montgomery (1999) points out, guerrillas actively participated in organ trafficking during the war in Kosovo; especially, organs of prisoners abducted by the Kosovo Liberation Army²⁰ were trafficked. Also, in 2010, the Swiss senator Dick Marty and the Kosovo PM Hashim Thaci reported that other guerillas abducted Albanian and Serb civilians, murdered them, and sold their organs on the black market during the Kosovo War (1988-89).²¹

2. Countries Supplying Trafficked Organs

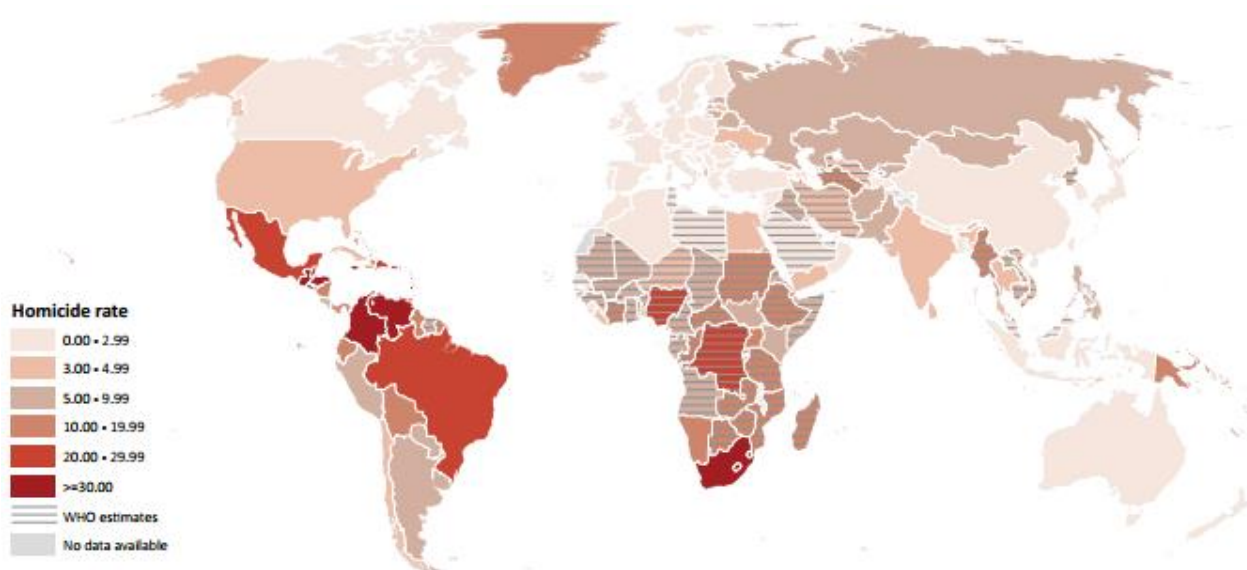
Most of the countries standing as suppliers of organs through black market are defined as developing countries, according to the World Bank. Also, according to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNDOC) some of these countries, especially in Latin America, have the highest homicide rates in the world, associated with gang's activity, drug trafficking or organized crime²² (Figure 5). In most of those countries, organs are commercialized through black markets and sold at low prices. The trafficking in human beings is another criminal activity facilitating the organs trafficking.

²⁰ Kosovo Organ Trafficking: How the claims were expose: Balkan Transitional Justice. Available in: <https://goo.gl/Yb8Ldf>

²¹ RT: Kosovo Liberation Army harvested Serb Organs – EU Inquiry. Available in: <https://goo.gl/9VPf5N>

²² UNODC International Statistics on Crime and Justice. Available in: <https://goo.gl/nzVfyf>

Figure 5. Homicide rates by country or territory (2012 or latest years)



Source: UNODC. Homicide Statistics 2013. Available in: <https://goo.gl/NGRfWF>

In Asia

The main supplier countries of this region are China, Turkey, India, Philippines and Pakistan. China, India and Turkey.²³ According to the United Nations Development Program, none of these nations have a very high level of human development. Even so, Turkey with an HDI of 0,759 and China with an HDI of 0.719 are considered of high human development. India with an HDI of 0.586 and the Philippines with an HDI of 0.660 have a medium human development. Pakistan with an HDI of 0.537 is the only country situated in the “low human development” category. As the Gini index shows for these countries (Figure 5), their level of inequality is medium.

²³ These countries are part of the 20 leader positions in the GDP ranking: China (#2) with a GDP of \$ US 10,360,105 million, India (#9) with a GDP of \$ US 2,066,902 million, and Turkey (#18) with a GDP of \$US 799,534 million. Lower in the ranking are Philippines (#40) with a GDP of \$ US 284,582 million, followed by Pakistan (#43) with a GDP of \$ US 246,876 million. However, only Turkey and China are considered by the Global Bank as countries with upper middle level of income. The remaining countries have a lower middle income. Excepting the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, all these countries are parliamentary republics (People's Republic, in the case of China). Pakistan, Turkey and India register agriculture as their main economic sector, while China and the Philippines are predominantly industrial.

Figure 5. Gini Index: Asia

Country	Gini Index
China	42,1 (2010)
India	33,9 (2010)
Philippines	43,0 (2012)
Turkey	40,2 (2012)
Pakistan	29,6 (2012)

World Bank. Available in: <https://goo.gl/PdM77E>

Religion, as a factor that explains criminal markets of organs in other regions, is highly diverse among these Asian countries: in China the main religions are Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism; India's population is mostly Hindu, with 79.8%; In Pakistan and Turkey, Islam is the official religion with 96.4% and 99.8% (mostly Sunni in both countries); while the Philippines are predominantly Catholic.

As previously stated Islam is a religion traditionally associated with strong opinions against organ donation; however, some Islam scholars have recently argued in favor of the meritorious of saving lives through organ donation, related to moral values defended by the Quran. This new perception of organs donation is defended in countries such as Egypt and Pakistan, which may explain their participation in organ trafficking as suppliers more than receivers.²⁴

According to a World Health Organization Bulletin (2007), about 12,000 kidney and liver transplants were carried out in 2005 in China, and at least half of those were for non-Chinese recipients. These organs were mostly procured from 'death-row' prisoners whose executions coincide with transplant tourist arrivals.²⁵ Recently, cases of illegal trafficking and transplant operations conducted in China have been registered in the media. For instance, in 2014 a court in Beijing sentenced 15 people, including medical personnel in charge of conducting the operations.²⁶

²⁴ "Organ donation, transplantation and religion" In: Nephrol Dial Transplantation. Oliver, Michael; Woywodt, Alexander; Aimun, Ahmed, and Saif Imran .2010. Available in: <https://goo.gl/799fji>

²⁵ Rick Thomas (2013) A Market Price of Organs. The New Bioethics, Vol 19, No 2.

²⁶ Yan, Alice (2014), Kidney trafficking gang that ran underground hospital jailed by Beijing court. Available in: <https://goo.gl/3XcT4t>

Another particularity of this region is the lack of effectiveness in transplantation legislation, and apparent involvement of individuals and official institutions in organ trafficking and transplant tourism. In 2007, for example, Pakistan's Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Ordinance had an immediate effect on the organ trade, lowering the number of commercial transplantations and reducing foreign patients. However, after the ordinance became an act of parliament in 2010, the trade increased again regarding the little effort to enforce legislation by health and law-enforcement authorities in the country.²⁷

As it has been also discussed regarding receiver countries, the presence of criminal networks related to other black markets facilitates the criminal commercialization of organs. In the region, the CIA points out that China, Philippines and Pakistan are countries of the source, transit, and destination for men, women, and children, who are victims of sex trafficking and forced labor. Also, according to the CIA, these countries do not fully accomplish the minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking. Additionally, in these three countries, as well as Turkey and India, strong transnational trafficking networks related to trafficking of Asian heroin, opium and morphine, operate and facilitate routes and conditions for the trafficking of human beings²⁸.

In Eastern Europe

Azerbaijan, Romania, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine were all former countries of the Soviet Union that currently are republics, although Belarus and Azerbaijan are recognized as authoritarian systems centered on the executive²⁹. Azerbaijan and Ukraine, in particular, are in current political and territorial tension with their border countries: Armenia and Russia, respectively.³⁰

²⁷ Asis Efrat. The Politics of Combating the Organ Trade: Lessons from the Israeli and Pakistani Experience. American Journal of Transplantation: 13(2013).

²⁸ The World Factbook CIA 2014 – 2015. Available in: <https://goo.gl/bA9vvn>

²⁹ The World Factbook, CIA 2014 – 2015. Available in: <https://goo.gl/yKPTzv>

³⁰ With the exception of Moldova, the other countries have similar economies. Ukraine have a GDP of USD \$131 185 million and occupies the #59 position in the world ranking, Belarus with US \$ 76,139 million occupies the #67 position, Azerbaijan with a GDP of 75,198 million is in the #68 position. And far behind in the ranking (#145) is Moldova with a GDP of 7,944 million. According to the Global Bank none of these nations have a high income; nevertheless, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Romania have an upper middle income. Romania, Moldova and Ukraine have a lower middle income.

According to the United Nations Development Program, excluding Moldova, the remaining countries have a high level of human development. In order, these countries have the following HDI of: Belarus 0,786, Romania 0,785; Azerbaijan 0.747; Ukraine 0,734 and last, in the lower human development category, Moldova with 0.663. As the Gini index indicates (Figure 6), the level of inequality in these countries is the lower middle.

Figure 6. Gini INDEX: Former Soviet Union Countries

Country	Gini Index
Azerbaijan	16,6 (2005)
Ukraine	24,6 (2013)
Belarus	26,0 (2012)
Romania	27,3 (2012)
Moldova	28,5(2013)

World Bank. Available in: <https://goo.gl/OQTktq>

These nations perform similar economic activities, since in all of them the oil-gas sector has a dominant role stimulating other economic sectors. The main industrial activities in these countries are related to manufacture of home appliances, machinery, chemicals and pharmaceutical industry³¹.

According to the *Report on victims of trafficking in southeastern Europe* (2005) there is a distinction between (i) extensive organs trafficking and (ii) commercialization of organs by individuals. The first implies coercion, while the second takes advantage of the poorest people situation, but not necessarily through coercion. As a result, in this region it is usual that individuals decide to sell their organs in illegal markets that eventually engage with trafficking. However, in the past few years as a result of law enforcement against trafficking in Eastern Europe, organ commercialism and trafficking of human beings for the removal of organs (THBOR) have shifted to regions with social and political instability and economic crisis like Latin America, North Africa and other regions³².

Regarding other criminal activities, Belarus and Ukraine are the source, transit, and destination countries for trafficking of women, men, and children subjected to sex

³¹ Global Tenders: Economy of Rumania. Available in: <https://goo.gl/AI41Xk>

³² Policy Department, Directorate-General for External Policies, Europe Parliament. Trafficking in human organs. Available in: <https://goo.gl/Hg8qAB>

exploitation and forced labor. According to the CIA, these nations do not fulfill the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Also, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Romania and Belarus are countries with widespread crime and underground economic activity, so they are major transshipment points for illicit drugs, especially of Southwest Asian heroin and Latin American cocaine.

In Latin America

Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia are the main countries in Latin America involved in organ trafficking as suppliers of cells, tissues and organs, mostly kidneys.³³ All of these countries are also involved in other transnational criminal networks, especially related to drug trafficking. The main religion practiced in these nations is Roman Catholicism. As the Gini index shows (Figure 6), the level of inequality in these countries tends to be upper middle and high.

Figure 6. Gini index: Latin America

Country	Gini Index
Nicaragua	45,7 (2009)
Costa Rica	49,2 (2013)
Brazil	52,9 (2013)
Colombia	52,9 (2013)
Peru	44,7 (2013)
Ecuador	47,3 (2013)

Source World Bank. Available in: <https://goo.gl/HLcisiw>

According to “Organs Watch”, organ trafficking represents a highly lucrative trade for criminal networks in Latin America, since it is estimated that approximately 20,000 kidneys

³³ Colombia occupies the #31 position with a GDP of \$ US 377,739 million. Peru occupies the #52 position with a GDP of \$US 202,903 million. Ecuador occupies the #63 position with a GDP of \$US 100,543 million. Costa Rica occupies the #82 position with a GDP of \$ US 49,552 million, and Nicaragua occupies the #134 position with a GDP of \$US 11,805 million. Excluding Nicaragua, with a low middle level of income, the income level of the other countries is identified by the Global Bank as upper middle. Nicaragua is the only country of this group located in the low human development category with a HDI of 0.614, and it is also recognized as the poorest country in central America, and the second in the western hemisphere³³. The remaining countries are in the high human development category with a HDI of 0.763 in Costa Rica, 0.711 in Colombia, 0.711 in Ecuador, 0.737 in Peru, and 0.744 in Brazil. The top economic sector of most of these countries is agriculture with products like coffee, bananas and potatoes. Also, the exploitation of mineral resources and the petroleum production is relevant among these countries.

alone are sold around the world through a black market mostly supplied by Latin American countries. By 2005 a kidney would sell for nearly USD \$10,000 in Peru and \$6,000 in Brazil, generating a potential profit over 1000 percent to brokers³⁴.

All of these Latin American countries register intense criminal activities in various black markets. For instance, Colombia and Peru are the largest producers of cocaine, supplying it to nearly all of the US market and other international drug markets. The organized crime in Colombia, related to various criminal groups, have generated stable transnational criminal networks over the years. Ecuador is the importer of precursor chemicals used in the production of illicit narcotics, while Brazil, Costa Rica and Nicaragua through gangs are transshipment points for cocaine destined for the US and Europe, and smuggling of weapons. Due to drug trafficking and other related crimes with this illegal activity, this region is highly violent.

In Africa

Egypt³⁵, with 90% of Muslim population, predominantly Sunni, is the main organ supplier of Africa. Egypt's proximity to Israel may facilitate organ trafficking between these two countries, especially through transplantation tourism. According to the Egyptian Society of Nephrology, in 2007 Egypt performed nearly 500 kidneys transplant annually, mostly performed from commercial living donors.³⁶ However, since 2011 Egypt has a new Organ Donation Law that imposed severe restrictions on transplant operations for foreigners and stipulated long jail sentences for violations³⁷.

Gazan breaches in the security wall of Egypt highlight difficulties in monitoring the Sinai border, which promotes this spot as a transit point for cannabis, heroin, and opium moving to Europe, Israel, and North Africa. As it has been previously mentioned, these criminal

³⁴ Edward Fox. Desperation, Lack of Donors Drives Organ Trafficking in Latin America. Available in: <https://goo.gl/GRA7AS>

³⁵ Egypt is a semi-presidential republic, its GDP is \$ US 286,538 million, which locates the country in the #39 position in the global ranking. According to its GNI, the Global Bank identifies the level of income of this country as lower middle. Its Gini index by 2008 was 30,8 so its inequality level is medium. About the quality of life of the citizens, according to the United Nations Development Program, Egypt has a medium HDI (human development index) of 0.682. The major economic sector of this country is agriculture, especially of basic products for food and fiber manufacturing. The Structure and Economy of Egypt. Available in: <https://goo.gl/rCLjU8>

³⁶ D.A Budiano-Saberi and F.L. Delmonico. Organ Trafficking and Transplantation Tourism: A commentary on the Global Realities. American Journal of Transplantation, 8. (2008) Available in: <https://goo.gl/A4Nd2j>

³⁷ Egypt: New law targets illegal organ transplants. Irin: Humanitarian news and analysis. Available in: <https://goo.gl/3XO9Kg>

activities tend to facilitate human trafficking and, in turns, organs trafficking.

Conclusion

Countries defined by the World Bank as developing countries are the main supplier of organs, tissues and cells through black markets, while those defined as developed and wealthy countries concentrate the reception of this market.

The primal ways of organ trafficking are tough transplant tourism, commercialization of organs, tissues and cells in black markets, and human trade for organ removal. In the United States, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and Israel, transplant tourism is common. In Latin America and Africa organs trafficking usually happens through commercialization of the organs, tissues and cells through black markets. In Asia and Eastern Europe organ trafficking is highly related with the trade of human beings.

In the supplier Latin American countries there is usually the strong presence of organized crime related to drug trafficking, while in Asian and Eastern European countries there is trafficking of humans. Since law enforcement is usually weak in those countries, corruption and proliferation of other criminal activities are common. The presence of transnational criminal networks specialized in traffic of various goods and commodities, and the lack of efforts to fight them, are conditions that facilitate organ trafficking across supplier countries.

In general, the countries that are hot spots for organ trafficking are also hot spots for drugs trafficking, so organ traffickers may take advantage of already existing criminal networks and routes. All the supplier and receiver countries exposed in this document are recognized by the CIA as transshipments points or spots for money laundering, so it can be inferred that these countries may be already linked through several illegal activities.

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