

NOTE

Abusing Children

Bharat Dogra writes :

According to Roger Sawyer, author of a book 'Children Enslaved', 264 US pornographic magazines specialise in children. Sawyer says, "The physical suffering of children used in pornographic film industry, in prostitution, and in the narcotics trade, make most child labourers of the Third World seem privileged in comparison."

Renee Bridal, a Swiss UN delegate in Geneva who has researched international traffic in children has stated, "This involves hundreds of thousands of children from all over the Third World and certainly from Bangladesh...they are sent to wealthy countries everywhere including the US and Canada. ...Begging doesn't really bring in big money. Pornography does. The biggest income comes from the very young children, down to the ages of 2 and 3 years old. They are filmed and photographed in paedophile and even with animals. You can buy these cassettes at Kiosks all over the world and project them at home. And there are snuff films now in the market in which teenage girls are actually put to death. From what I know these films are made by American gangsters in Hong Kong and Manila, and screened in the USA and South America. It is very costly to see them and very clandestine."

According to recent news reports, 100 Indian children were depicted on 50 CDs of child pornography seized from an Australian in Jakarta in November 2006. It is clear that if child porn films (and other material), including very cruel films, exist on a large scale, then many children are abused, probably even killed, in the process of making these films or after making these films.

Some years back when several children went missing from Dacca slums and footpaths, a British doctor had started an independent investigation which indicated that children had been taken from parents on the promise of feeding them and providing for them in times of great distress.

The parents were promised that children will be returned to them after the distress conditions were over. However these children were never returned to their parents. When Dr Jack Preger, a British doctor serving the poor in Dacca started an independent investigation he was thrown out of Bangladesh. However later the results of this investigation revealed that these children had been sent abroad illegally, and there was a strong suspicion that some of them may have been abused in the child porn racket, given the high profits in this business.

Recently in Nithari child porn materials have been seized from the main accused and in this context the possible linkages with porn trade should certainly be investigated. Even otherwise there is a strong case for maintaining a high alert on abuse of children for this purpose so that strong action can be taken to curb this cruel crime. ❧❧❧