

ALGERIA

MEET A CHILD

I am Kamila. I am 17 now. At age 14, I became a bride. I was a refugee in the city of Tindouf. While Morocco and Algeria fight over the Western Sahara region, my family took refuge in the refugee camps in Tindouf. We didn't have food to eat or money to buy food. My parents sold me to a man who gave them some money, they needed the money to survive. Luckily, Hassan, my husband is good and I fear no exploitation. But I became a woman when I was still a child...

TOTAL POPULATION 32,323,000
CHILD POPULATION 10,989,820

Population Reference Bureau - 2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

According to UNICEF, approximately 3 percent of children worked in some capacity

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004, February 2005

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

For the year 2010, the total economically active population is estimated to be 15,089,000 with no children in the age group of 10-14 years being economically active.

ILO, Bureau of Statistics, Economically Active Population

GENDER RATIO

980 females for 1000 males

CIA, factbook-2005 (Fig is an estimate for 2005)

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, 213,200 primary school going age children of 6-11 years were out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.868, the country's level of progress towards ensuring education for all by 2015 is medium

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

CHILD SLAVERY

Forced or bonded labor is prohibited by the Constitution's provisions on individual rights, and the Penal Code prohibits compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory labor by children. The Government generally enforced the ban effectively.

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004, February 2005

CHILD TRAFFICKING

Algeria is primarily a transit country for men, women, and children trafficked from Central and Western Africa en route to Europe for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION AND PORNOGRAPHY

In Algeria, like most of Africa, child prostitution is increasing. Important factors are poverty, cultural specificity (such as the low

ECPAT CSEC Database, http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp

status of women and customary early marriages), war and the presence of soldiers aid programmes, and finally tourism. The low status of women has given rise to the phenomenon of "Sugar Daddies". Older men give girls tuition fees, clothes and presents in exchange for sex.

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

One study by Algerian human rights activists was given evidence of children being recruited and carrying automatic weapons in a family-run Legitimate Defence Groups (GLD) headed by local officials.

Although the voluntary recruitment age remained unclear, children did not appear to have been recruited into government armed forces. There were unconfirmed reports of under-18s being used by government-allied paramilitary forces and armed political groups, but little documented evidence was available.

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

One report stated that more than 25,000 children between the ages of 6 and 14 were working in the informal economy.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

US Dept. of State, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2004, February 2005