

# ARGENTINA

## MEET A CHILD

Fernanda Aguirre, age 13, was kidnapped into forced prostitution in Argentina, in July 2004 in San Benito, a town in the Northeastern province of Entre Rios. Fernanda's mother has come across evidence that her daughter fell into the hands of a prostitution ring. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$600. Although the ransom was paid, Fernanda never reappeared

**TOTAL POPULATION**                    **37,880,000**  
**CHILD POPULATION**                **10,606,400**

Population Reference Bureau -  
2004

## TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

In 2001, the ILO estimated that 2.2 per cent of children ages 10-14 yrs in Argentina were working.

- The US Dept.of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor
- State of World's Children 2005, UNICEF

In 2002, the most recent year for which data was reported, the Ministry of Labor estimated that 7.1 percent of children ages 5 to 14 worked. In June, the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Labor (CONAETI) estimated that up to 1.5 million children, or 23 percent of the child population under the age of 15, worked in some capacity. The rate was believed to be higher in rural areas

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 18,704,000. For the year 2000, there were an estimated 80,000 children in the age group of 10-14 years being economically active. It is estimated that there would be no economically active child in this age group by 2010

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,  
Economically Active Population

## GENDER RATIO

1030 females for 1000 males

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

## CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, 7,700 primary school going aged children between 6-11 years were out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

## PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

With an EDI of 0.970, the country's progress towards ensuring education for all by 2015 is high

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring Report 2005

## CHILD SLAVERY

In a recent raid by the police, Bolivian boys were discovered working as slaves in an Argentine factory; These boys were

forced to work 19-hour shifts, they are prohibited from leaving, and they are often beaten to keep up the pace. Authorities are still investigating how these undocumented youths slipped past the border. The minors continued to work for almost two years, still receiving no pay, and falling into further debt imposed by their 'owners.' All too often those who risk coming to the city center find themselves working in factory jobs in conditions of contemporary slavery.

Buenos Aires has become the place where the Argentine slavery thrives.

Another form of slavery that exists in Argentina is sexual slavery. Paraguayan immigrant girls were discovered in brothels in Buenos Aires during another raid ten days after Bolivian minors were found working as factory slaves. There is a well-organized system of sexual slavery in the city, as sexual slavery makes up a portion of its \$64 million per year underground economy (other contributors include drug trafficking and illegal gambling)

### **CHILD TRAFFICKING**

Argentina is primarily a destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. Most victims are trafficked internally, from rural to urban areas, for exploitation in the commercial sex trade.

Some Argentine women and girls are trafficked abroad, mainly for sexual exploitation in Brazil, Paraguay, or Spain. Women and children are trafficked from Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil for commercial sexual exploitation, and migrants from neighboring countries are sometimes trafficked to Argentina for other types of forced labor.

### **CHILD PROSTITUTION**

Women and children are trafficked from Paraguay, Bolivia, and Brazil for commercial sexual exploitation, and migrants from neighboring countries are sometimes trafficked to Argentina for other types of forced labor.

In 2001, UNICEF published a study carried out in Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Villa María, San Francisco, Resistencia, Posadas, Neuquen and Puerto Madryn. A total of 326 interviews were carried out, where 52% of the interviewees were child victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Child and adolescent victims (of varying ages) of commercial sexual exploitation have been found within overt spaces for commercial sex: streets, service stations, plazas, and parks. Victims of CSEC have also been found within covert spaces for commercial sex such as: saunas, brothels, whiskey bars, massage parlours, etc, within each of the cities studied by UNICEF.

I Abolish ,The Anti-Slavery Portal,  
[http://anti-slavery.org/slavery\\_today.htm](http://anti-slavery.org/slavery_today.htm)

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in  
Persons Report 2005

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in  
Persons Report 2005

ECPAT CSEC Database,  
[http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat\\_inter/projects/monitoring/online\\_database/index.asp](http://www.ecpat.net/eng/Ecpat_inter/projects/monitoring/online_database/index.asp)

**CHILDREN USED IN CRIME**

Children also were involved in prostitution, sex tourism, and drug trafficking, although firm statistics were unavailable.

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

**CHILD SOLDIERS**

There were no reports of under-18s in the armed forces.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers, 2004

**CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR**

Children work in agriculture in such products as tea, tobacco, tomatoes, strawberries, and flowers. They work in urban sectors such as trash recycling, street sales, begging, shoe shining, domestic labor, in small and medium businesses, small scale garment production, food preparation, and brickwork.

The US Dept. of Labor's 2003 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Child labor in urban zones increased following the 2001 economic crisis and included such work as trash recycling, street sales, domestic labor, and food preparation.

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