

GAMBIA

MEET A CHILD

A Norwegian man, in his 50s & a teacher by profession, sexually abused Miag, a 12-year-old Gambian boy. The teacher had spent four holidays in a hotel "popular among Scandinavians" in The Gambia, getting to know him and his family during his first stay. The man had provided him with generous pocket money and his family with economic support, including his private school fees. The elder cousin of Miag was suspicious about the behavior of the boy & the teacher, so he reported this to the Gambian police, which questioned Miag, who after some time confirmed about the sexual exploitation. Norwegian police in Norway rolled up the case.

TOTAL POPULATION **1,547,000**
CHILD POPULATION **696,150**

Population Reference Bureau -
2004

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

UNICEF projected a total Child Labour of 313720 in the age group 5-14 yrs.

State of World's Children 2005,
UNICEF

In 2000, UNICEF estimated that 26.9 percent of children ages 5 to 14 years in the Gambia were working.

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

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

An estimated 843,000 would be economically active in 2010. Of them 53,000 children aged 10-14yrs would also be economically active constituting 28% of children in that age group

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population.

GENDER RATIO

1000 females for 1000 males

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

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, there were 55,400 primary school age children between 7-12 years out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005.

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

Gambia's EDI is 0.648 suggesting that its progress towards education for all is low

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005.

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data

CHILD TRAFFICKING

The Gambia is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced domestic and commercial labor.

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2005

CHILD PROSTITUTION & PORNOGRAPHY

Sex tourism is a problem in the Gambia and involves both boys and girls.

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

The Country has become an attraction for suspected or convicted European paedophiles that entered the country as tourists and committed their crimes against children silently and with impunity.

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

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

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

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers 2004.

CHILD LABOUR IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

Children in rural areas mainly work on family farms and assist with housework; many children in urban areas work as street vendors or taxi and bus assistants. Other sectors where children ages 14 to 17 years are known to work are carpentry, sewing, masonry, plumbing, tailoring, and mechanics.

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