

The Code Quarterly,

International Newsletter No.18, September-December 2008

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From left to right: Dr. Dawid de Villiers (UNWTO), Fausta Borsani (TheCode), HM Queen Silvia of Sweden, Ana Maria Drummond (WCF Brazil), Dinaurea Cheffins (Atlantica Hotels).

The Code of Conduct was recommended in the outcome document of the World Congress III as a model of good practice for the tourism private sector in the prevention of sexual exploitation and protection of children's rights in tourism.

The Rio de Janeiro Pact to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents - extracts addressing the role of the private sector -

C. PLAN OF ACTION; C.4. Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in travel and tourism, page 13: (...) we call on States, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, academia, children and young people and other relevant actors to:

- Encourage and support the tourism, travel and hotel sectors in adopting professional Codes of Conduct, for example by **joining and implementing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism**; encourage the use of businesses that put in place appropriate child protection-focused corporate social responsibility strategies; and/or provide other incentives for those participating;.

D. FOLLOW-UP: We commit ourselves to the most effective follow-up to this Plan of Action:

- (...) **encouraging the private sector to join the UN Global Compact** and communicate their implementation progress with regard to addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and supporting the realization of this platform for coordinated corporate efforts and sharing of best practices.

(‘Midnight plus two version’, <http://www.ecpat.net/WorldCongressIII/index.php>)

Calendar of events January – March 2009

Date	Place	Main organizer, Event, Participation
Jan 14, Feb10, Mar 3 March 8-9	teleconferences Berlin	ExCom telcon Expert Meeting on law enforcement organized by Ecpat/DCI Netherlands (Theo Noten)
March 12-13	Toledo	Council of Europe The Protection of Children in European Justice Systems
March 13	Berlin	UNWTO Task Force to Protect Children in Tourism
March 14	Berlin	Code AGM 2009
July	Vienna	Train-the-trainers organized by ECPAT/respect Austria (Astrid Winkler)

INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BEFORE

March 27, 2009



The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, an industry-driven responsible tourism initiative, in collaboration with ECPAT, co-funded by UNICEF and supported by the UNWTO.

www.thecode.org

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1. Message from the Code Executive Committee

Zurich, Bangkok and New York: December 19, 2008

Dear Signatories and Members of The Code Organization,

The end of the year 2008 coincides with the celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the Code and the successful meetings in Rio during World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, where The Code achieved excellent visibility and prominence. This is also a welcome chance to review the latest developments within the Code organisation and to inform you about plans and ask for feedback regarding some very important changes which will be decided upon at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), on March 14th 2009.

To date, 989 individual companies with headquarters in 34 different countries have signed the Code of Conduct, currently applying it all over the world. In 2009 we will attain the 1000 signatories mark for sure! This is a tremendous success and shows that The Code is THE recognized prevention tool against child sex tourism! This is reflected in increased awareness of the problem on the part of the industry and the travellers, too. Our achievements were also very recently acknowledged by the 2008 Ending Global Slavery Award which The Code won.

From an organisational development perspective, we have a strategy which was approved by the signatories and members; we have the new application and signing procedures in place; and we have a set of diversified criteria for every branch of the tourism industry. Furthermore, we have the energy to continue and to face the new challenges ahead. Let us be proud of these achievements and feel motivated and encouraged to do even more!

New composition of the ExCom

The AGM 2008 elected a new ExCom of The Code, which started working in April 2008. However, due to staffing changes within some of the companies represented on the ExCom, it is now constituted with the following members:

- Chair: Giorgio Berardi (ECPAT International), taking over from Fausta Borsani as per Nov 1st
 - Matthias Leisinger (Kuoni Travel Holding), replacing Liselott Sand
 - Hélène Roques (Accor)
 - Milena Grillo Rivera (Paniamor Costa Rica)
- In order to continue the projects already initiated, while taking note of the changes, the ExCom proceeded to add to its composition two non-voting appointments:
- Legal Representative: Liselott Sand
 - Project Manager: Fausta Borsani

Fundraising applications

The ExCom has developed a variety of actions with a strong focus on finding funds for the implementation of the new strategy – approved already at the AGM 2007, but yet to be put in place because of insufficient funds. The situation today is that while having over 900 signatory members in 34 countries, the Code has only two full-time dedicated staff: the Secretariat Coordinator and the recently appointed Project Manager (the latter position only funded through to March 2009).

Therefore, over the last year, numerous meetings have taken place to explore funding opportunities. Several applications were submitted to various donors towards the implementation of the strategy, with the initial aim of building up a Headquarters and Europe office in Switzerland and an Asian-Pacific Regional Office, complementing the existing structure of the Secretariat based in New York to become the Americas Regional Office.

Significant effort has been made by the ExCom in the fundraising work and the Code ExCom considers that approaching the tourism industry and Code membership to contribute to the Code development is at this stage a crucial step towards securing the financial sustainability of the Code. This priority appears to be well complemented by the current contribution from the private industry for prevention work (e.g. training and information) which is estimated as being already considerable at about one million USD per year.

The plans for 2009

Through the service fee approach which was approved at the last AGM, each signatory company will be asked to contribute to the services that the company gets from “The Code” organisation as a whole (e.g. using The Code logo, receiving The Code Quarterly Newsletter, accessing The Code database, etc.) and from the local Code representatives (yearly monitoring, regular communication and local coordination).

The local Code representatives (e.g. the affiliated ECPAT groups or other suitable organisations) will be accredited by The Code and will be asked to sign a cooperation agreement with The Code organisation, which has also a financial component (in the shape of a yearly license to perform training). In return, the work carried out by the local Code representatives to monitor the industry compliance will need to be remunerated by The Code Organization.

Some services, however, need to be paid by the signatory parties in addition to the annual service fee. The industry will contribute directly to the training led by accredited professionals of the local Code representatives. Also, the industry will have to pay an initial “Sign up fee” covering the induction and briefing work provided by the local Code representatives and leading to the actual signing of the Code by the candidate company.

The fees were an integral part of the approved strategy and are based upon five different categories of industry membership. The proposed range of service fees will be from 100 to 8000 USD per year.

Service fees on the basis of the annual turnover as proposed in the strategy 2007 proposed for introduction upon approval of the AGM 2009

Category	Annual turnover	Service fee
1	50 million USD and more	8,000 USD
2	15 million to less than 50 million USD	5,000 USD
3	5 million to less than 15 million USD	2,000 USD
4	1 million to less than 5 million USD	800 USD
5	Less than 1 million USD	100 USD
6	Supporter of the Code of Conduct	20 USD

The need for a strong TheCode Organisation

The 2007 approved strategy proposes a new and strong mutual dependency between the new structures (Headquarters and Regional Offices) and the Code local representatives. This implies also a central coordination of the distribution of the service fees paid by the industry.

The ExCom is convinced this is necessary and in the interest of both the industry and the local The Code representatives in order to achieve our mutual goals of protecting children from sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism sector:

The main advantages for the industry are:

- To have credible partners in every destination
- To be monitored and thus have a higher credibility towards the market
- To be able to use a credible and widely recognised logo as a marketing instrument
- To have access to professional support on technical and capacity-building issues
- To keep the industry-driven nature of The Code organisation

The main advantages for the local Code representatives are:

- To be registered and belong to and represent The Code, helping increased credibility
- To have a structured framework in which to support their own child protection goals
- To perform up-to-date and harmonised training and induction work
- To be remunerated for consultancy and monitoring, as well as for training within the work with signatories

Feedback process

We are sending you attached to this newsletter, and will also be posting on thecode.org website a concise questionnaire for you to contribute your feedback on the main decisions that will have to be made at the next AGM. We are inviting all parties – signatory tourism companies, national and international partners – to participate in the feedback process which will be started mid of January. **We would also highly appreciate the support of the national partners in circulating the message widely to the signatories in their respective countries.**

In view of the restructuring of The Code database, we would also appreciate if you could notify us of any address and contact change that may have intervened in the meantime.

We thank you for your commitment to protecting children's rights and supporting a sustainable tourism development. We look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation in 2009.

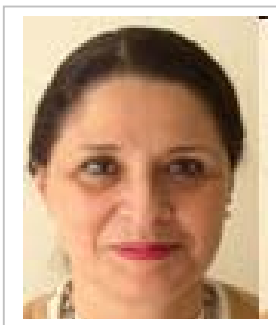


The Code Organization
Giorgio Berardi (Code Acting Chair)
and
Fausta Borsani (Project Manager)



ECPAT International
END CHILD PROSTITUTION CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

Message from ECPAT International Carmen Madriñán, Executive Director



The Code of Conduct received merited recognition and attention from governments, UN, academia, civil society and other actors participating at the recent World Congress III. The interest to learn from the examples of the Code for expansion of its action around the world is particularly gratifying as it comes on the eve of the 10th anniversary of this unique initiative.

ECPAT is enormously gratified to witness this having been a key player in founding and supporting the development of the Code. We believe that this increasing interest in the Code demonstrates the ever-widening reach of its work and that the appreciation it has received comes as a consequence of being one of the few long term and tangible examples of private sector's –

tourism and travel – interest and dedication to work towards a common standard of achievement in the protection of children in the realm of its activities and services.

In the context of the current global crisis which has undermined confidence in private sector ability to apply self-regulation to ensure that the pursuit of profit can take place without compromising the common good, the Code achieves particular significance as an example of a well-established initiative and proven programme where the private sector has continued to demonstrate readiness to act within its realm to protect children ensuring that their inherent dignity and right to protection is respected. The new impetus within the Code to systematise training activities and other programmes and to engage and support in a sustained manner with existing and new tourism and travel enterprises is an effort that ECPAT at all levels will continue to promote and concretely support in full measure, while also calling on others to join this important partnership.

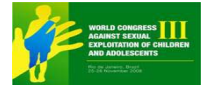
**[see Questionnaire for signatory companies attached,
and also to be made available for download from www.thecode.org]**

2. Code Secretariat

Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Camelia Tepelus

Review of activities of the Code ExCom and Secretariat, September – December 2008

- **Participation at the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents held on Nov. 25-28 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**



Culminating intensive activity over 2008 including participation and inputs in preparatory activities, regional and expert meetings in Florence, Geneva, Buenos Aires, Bern and Winnipeg, the Code governing bodies – Executive Committee (decision making role) and Steering Committee (advisory role) reunited in Rio de Janeiro in the context of the World Congress III. TheCode reflection in the proceeding of the World Congress III was substantial, including participation and inputs in the following meetings.

- On November 25, 2008, the Code Steering Committee and Executive Committee held their meetings, chaired by Giorgio Berardi (ECPAT International), both with an excellent attendance. The activity between April and November was approved, and the minutes outcomes of the meetings were circulated to all StCom members.

- A meeting of the **South American Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism** was held on November 26, 2008.

Together with updates from the work of this inter-governmental group, the event also marked the transition of the technical secretariat of the task force to Ecuador, following the successful mandate held until November 2008 by Brazil. The Ministers of Tourism of Ecuador, Verónica Sion, and of Brazil, Luiz Barreto attended this meeting facilitated by the UNWTO Deputy Secretary General Taleb Rifai.



From left to right: Taleb Rifai (UNWTO), Luiz Barreto (Brazil Minister of Tourism) and Verónica Sion (Ecuador Minister of Tourism)



From left to right: Yoshihisa Togo (Japan Committee for UNICEF), Taleb Rifai, Marina Diotalle, Dr. Dawid de Villiers (UNWTO), Lotta Sand (TheCode).

- On November 27, 2008 the **Workshop 18 under the Theme 4 “Corporate Social Responsibility”** focused on the Code implementation in various regions of the world, as well as the more recent organizational and strategic developments of the Code. Speakers included Fausta Borsani (TheCode), Jacques Metadier (Accor Hotels), Yoshihisa Togo (Japan Committee for UNICEF) and Jennifer Seif (FTTSA).

Additional meetings of the Code ExCom and Secretariat also took place with several organizations including: ECPAT International, World Childhood Foundation, UN Global Compact, UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, Save the Children Sweden, ECPAT Sweden and FTTSA.



From left to right: Fausta Borsani (TheCode), Yoshihisa Togo (Japan Committee for UNICEF), Chin Chanveasna (ECPAT Cambodia), Prof. Benjamin Perrin (University of British Columbia), Jacques Metadier (Accor Hotels), Jennifer Seif (FTTSA)

- Signing of TheCode by Atlantica Hotels, Brazil on November 28, 2008.

In the context of the Inter-Governmental dialogue workshop held on Nov. 28, the Code was signed by the Brazilian Hotel Chain Atlantica Hotels, together with World Childhood Foundation and in presence of HM the Queen Silvia of Sweden.

At the same event several governmental representatives of the South American Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism made presentations of the role of this Task Force, and its expected development in 2009, particularly the transition of the technical secretariat from Brazil to Ecuador. South American country representatives that spoke included Elisabeth Bahia, of the Brazil Ministry of Tourism Program “Sustainable Tourism and Childhood”, Susana Cafaro of SECTUR, Argentina, and Freddy Egüez, of FENACAPTUR (the Federation of Chambers of Tourism of Ecuador).



From left to right: Dr. Dawid de Villiers (UNWTO), Fausta Borsani (TheCode), HM Queen Silvia of Sweden, Ana Maria Drummond (WCF Brazil), Dinaurea Cheffins (Atlantica Hotels).



From left to right photo 1: HM Queen Silvia of Sweden, Dr. Dawid de Villiers (UNWTO), Lotta Sand (TheCode), Japan Committee for UNICEF; photo 2: Patricio Altamiro (Ecuador Ministry of Tourism), Susana Cafaro (Tourism Secretariat, Argentina), Camelia Tepelus (TheCode.org)

- A presentation of the Code was carried out at the invitation of the Council of Europe in Warsaw between 15-16 December 2008, in the context of the “3rd Regional Conference Promoting the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse”. The Convention, which includes an article addressing the role of the private sector in the protection of children is pending ratification by the Council Member states, which is expected to start in 2009.

For more information on the Council of Europe program for the promotion of children's rights and the protection of children from violence see:

http://www.coe.int/T/TransversalProjects/Children/Default_en.asp



- Code ExCom teleconferences took place on October 21, November 18 and December 19, 2008.
- The Code Secretariat submitted to UNICEF the Narrative and Activity Report for 2008, together with a Project Proposal for 2009, currently under revision. An overview on the Code operation and development was submitted in September 2008 to UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, for inclusion in a forthcoming research addressing legal standards and case studies concerning the prevention of child sex tourism.

3. UN World Tourism Organization

From http://www.unwto.org/protect_children/campaign/en/campaign.php?op=1&subop=1

- **New awareness campaign launched by UNWTO and partners at the International Task Force meeting on November 10, 2008 in London**

As tourism across the globe reaches unprecedented levels, so does the need to eradicate child labour and sexual exploitation in the global travel industry - that is why the United Nations body for tourism is taking action now.

A new awareness campaign from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the International Task Force to Protect Children in Tourism will raise the profile of children who are exploited.

A total of 218 million children are estimated to be engaged in labour world wide, while millions are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, according to the International Labour Organization. The UNWTO strongly believes that the tourism industry has a moral obligation and a special responsibility to combat child labour, sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

UNWTO is encouraging the industry to enforce its [Global Code of Ethics for Tourism](#), and protect children against harm. The campaign stresses that it is unacceptable for the industry and the travelling public to tolerate exploitation of children in all its forms.

This new campaign was formally launched at the World Travel Market at the 23rd meeting of the International Task Force – London, 10 November 2008, and globally on the Universal Children's Day – 20 November through joint and coordinated efforts by all partners, participants, supporters.

The campaign already enjoys broad support on the part of national governments, tourism boards, other UN agencies as well as partners from the public and private sectors. The UNWTO hopes all partners will join the campaign by:

- Using the campaign's logo wherever possible
- Distributing the logo, sticker and other print materials (downloadable from UNWTO website)
- Linking websites to www.unwto.org/protectchildren
- Organizing campaigns in local and national communities using these tools
- Planning an event for 20 November - Universal Children's Day
- Distributing the video (downloadable from UNWTO website)
- Informing your media contacts about the campaign
- Sending us information on your activities for our campaign

Join the UNWTO and add your voice to a new global movement to protect children in travel and tourism – they are our future.

**PROTECT CHILDREN!
DON'T LET CHILD ABUSE TRAVEL!**



Contact and more information:

www.unwto.org/protectchildren and email protectchildren@unwto.org.

4. ECPAT USA

Amaya Renobales (ECPAT USA – PCT Project Director based in Mexico/Cancún, Q. Roo) and Carol Smolenski, Executive Director ECPAT USA, Dec.16, 2008

Code of Conduct signings and trainings by ECPAT USA in Cancún, Riviera Maya and Tulum (Mexico)



On November 3rd, 2008, the Enchanting Group with three hotels in Tulum, one in Chile and one in Argentina, and “Nueva Vida de Ramiro” Hotel, signed the Code of Conduct in Tulum. The signing event (photo 1) was attended by the Tulum Hotel Association, the President and Tourism Director of the recently created Tulum Municipality, the DIF Tulum Director and a DIF Quintana Roo representative.

During September – December 2008 ECPAT USA held trainings of trainers for 435 people. Palace Group organized 5 trainings in 4 of their hotels in Cancun and the Riviera Maya and a conference given by Gilberto Esponda, ECPAT-USA Project Assistant, for 300 hotel employees about sexual exploitation of children in tourism and the Code of Conduct (photo 2). Also OMNI Puerto Aventuras Hotel and CROC (Confederación Revolucionaria de Obreros y Campesinos, the main workers union in the region) took part in these trainings. CROC has 45,000 members in the Quintana Roo State and plans to train all its members in Cancun and Playa del Carmen on the issue. The training was given by ECPAT USA to 31 trainers for this purpose.

In November 2008, Augusto Sosa, former Travel Agency Association President, and now at the Tourism Direction of the Municipality of Playa de Carmen, represented at the World Congress III, the tourism work on the protection of children in this region of Mexico. He has been one of the main leaders in child sex tourism prevention in the Riviera Maya.



Images from the PCT Project in Mexico, Q. Roo, 2008 (from left to right, top-down): photo1 - Palace Hotels trainings given by Gilberto Esponda; photo 2 - signing of the Code by Tulum Municipal Council; photo 3 - training of CROC workers union of Benito Juarez.



ECPAT USA visit to Belize, planning for 2009

On November 24th through 26th, 2008, Carol Smolenski, ECPAT USA Executive Director and Amaya Renobales, Project Director, visited Belize.

They met with some of the enterprises that signed or are about to sign the Code including the BTB

(Belize Tourism Board), the Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) and NOPCAN (National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect), in order to evaluate together the work done and define the work for the next year.

During 2009, ECPAT USA will continue supporting the BTIA and NOPCAN to promote the Code of Conduct, assess its application, continue with more trainings and monitoring. The ECPAT USA representatives also met with Mrs. Pearl Stuart, NCFC Director (National Committee for Families and Children) and discussed the work done in Belize on sexual exploitation of children.

5. Presentation - TLB Destinations

Sabina LLewellyn-Davies, January 9, 2008



Code applicant TLB Destinations (TOI member), operating in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Oman

Incoming tour operator TLB Destinations offers tourism experiences in the Middle East: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Oman. Founded in 1996, TLB's mission is to invite travellers to experience and discover the diversity of the unique culture, history, and nature of the Middle East and meet the local community - whether during a home stay or sharing a camp fire meal. TLB does not own the accommodation or transport companies it uses, and thus can generate income for its local partners, who are committed to employ local labor and serve locally produced food.

We believe that every traveler to the Middle East can contribute responsibly to preserving the natural environment and cultural diversity of the region. We are committed to conserve fragile sites and cultures and focus on: visits to less frequented sites; purchase of local handicraft and produce to preserve local cultures and provide income to the rural communities; stays with communities in the dry lands to discourage rural migration.

To participate in and contribute to local development initiatives, TLB founded CIFA (Centre d'Insertion par la Formation et l'Activité), a non-profit organization. CIFA has a training center with specialised tourism orientated programs to offer new job opportunities, thus participating in sustainable development.

TLB contributes to the local community by organising environmental and fundraising events - we support a children's school for the Blind and the Deaf as well as a homeless shelter which houses street children

Biodiversity is the basis of any sustainable development and we encourage responsible conduct during our trips to conserve each destinations ecosystem; we have initiated several recycling campaigns. Our travellers are made aware of local concerns regarding conservation of natural areas, as well as endangered and threatened heritage and TLB has founded national days and respects international days with events to raise awareness: World Wetland Day - National Orchid Day - Juniper Day - International Mountain Day, among others.

6. Fundacion Renacer, Colombia

Fabio Gonzalez Florez, Fundacion Renacer, Dec. 27. 2009

Article published in El Tiempo http://www.eltiempo.com/opinion/columnistas/otroscolumnistas/una-verguenza-sin-pena_4738302-1

A shame without punishment

The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Colombia is a tough reality that many people neglect. UNICEF estimates that currently in Colombia close to 35.000 minors are used for sexual purposes by adults travelling from other cities, other countries or from neighbourhoods close by.

This problem, which, by action or inaction, we all help perpetuating, has escaped our control recently. For example - what can be done to punish an adult which pays for the sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent? From the penal law side, nothing. In Colombia nothing can be done other than insulting and shaming the child. Any adult which pays for having sexual relations with a minor can escape without fault time and time again.

It turns out that in Colombia for years the 'detail' of including in the Penal Code the punishment of such outrageous crime has escaped us. We can not do anything because the criminals can not be jailed according to the Penal Code. The authorities only can implement the existing law and today they are forced to improvise in order to prosecute the perpetrators: from finding a crime which would fit this conduct, to working with the police of other countries in trying to jail the criminal in his origin country if it's a foreigner. This is not as easy as it may seem, beyond the need to cover existing gaps due the lack of laws. And it is a legislative void which is the core of the matter.

From two years back, the Congress of the Republic studies two law projects on this matter. One of them has been waiting for a good while (...) and it addressed the elaboration of a criminal category to punish those pursuing sexual activity with a child or teenager, and child pornography. The project is modern, thoroughly prepared and worth showing off. So much so that in the end of November, Columbia presented it at the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Brazil as one of the advancements on this issue.

However, this much glorified project is about to be archived. In the last week of debates in 2008, this 'detail' was not one of the priorities. Now we have to wait until March so that the debate proceeds in the plenary (...), before the June 2009 legislature ends, or, otherwise, it will be archived. This overview is not optimistic.

It is incredible that a law project so important runs the risk of mailing due to mismanagement and bad prioritization. The lobbyists of each pending law project will expose the arguments on the relevance of their proposal above the others, but the Constitution has already cleared the doubt and the Code of Childhood and Adolescence ratified it: the rights of children and teenagers are prevailing over everything else. The ball is now in the hands of the fathers and mothers of this country – it is not a favor it is a duty we all have. We are wishing you happy holidays together with your sons and daughters. Remember that because of such lapses, there are children and adolescents that are spending the end of the year in not such fortunate company.

(Program for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in the Context of Travel and Tourism of ECPAT Colombia-Fundación Renacer.)

7. eTurbo News

Italians and their “sexcapades” in East Africa

(eTN, Jan 9, 2009)



DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (eTN) - Reports from all over the East African Indian Ocean coastal towns showed that Italians love to have sex with African girls to an extent that some fly from Italy to East Africa on sex tourism mission.



Image via daylife.com

Few days after an Italian chef was given persona non grata status by Tanzanian authorities over sexual offense, reports from Kenya said Italian tourists visiting the tourist beach towns of Malindi and Mombasa are champions of sex tourism. An Italian chef was declared illegal immigrant in Tanzania's island of Zanzibar after four girls from his kitchen testified to have had sex with him and have conceived. A similar story was reported this week from Kenya where Italian tourists, most popular in beach holidays were found to be fond of having sex with Kenyan girls. Parents in the Kenyan coastal towns of Malindi and Mombasa said the two towns are currently the leading

destinations for child sex tourism in East Africa.

Through various media interviews, parents in Malindi, Watamu and Diani on the Kenyan Indian Ocean beaches said school girls have failed to attend schools in favor of sexual business with Italian tourists. “When the girls see an Italian tourist, they even approach him and ask for money in exchange of sex. And when an Italian tourist approach those girls, they become happy and invite him to enjoy sex and pay them some money,” one parent was quoted saying.

More than 2,000 Italians have settled in Malindi, while tens of thousands visit the coast annually. In Tanzania, Italians are mostly settled on the coastal towns of Zanzibar, Pemba, Mafia and Bagamoyo running tourist resorts. Kenyan Tourism Minister Najib Balala said there was no way that the Kenyan government would kick out Italians from tourism business because they were among the best stakeholders in tourism and have contributed greatly to community social projects such as schools. He said hoteliers must lead in the fight against child sex tourism, which has attracted a nasty coverage in the western media, particularly, the Italian press.

Findings showed that child sex tourism on the East African coast was driven by poverty which so far attracted them to practice commercial sex so as to supplement family earnings. The secretary for Children Affairs in the Kenyan Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, Jaqueline Oduol, said 50% percent of boys and girls involved in sex work were recruited or connected to tourists by beach boys, who also exploit them. Unlike other nationalities, Italian tourists are more interested in beach holidays than wildlife photographic safaris. Big charter aircraft from Italy frequently land in the East African coastal towns on tourism missions.

THANK YOU!

INPUTS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE WELCOME BY

Friday, March 27, 2009