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## Human Trafficking is used for Recruiting Terrorists

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## **Human Trafficking is used for Recruiting Terrorists**

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### **1 Introduction**

Human trafficking is defined as ‘it involves the exploitation of people through force, coercion, threat, or deception and includes human rights abuses such as debt bondage, deprivation of liberty, or lack of control over freedom and labor’ (Unclassified 2005). According to the Protocol (*UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children*) Human trafficking defines as ‘illegal trade of human beings, through abduction, the use or threat of force, deception, fraud, or ‘sale’ for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor’ (Unclassified 2005). It is clear that human trafficking is an illegal criminal activities and heavily relies on ‘supply and demand’ like other for profit industries. Moreover, International Labour Organization and United Nations states that ‘each year, between 700,000 – 900,000 people fall victim to trafficking across international borders and are bought, sold, transported and held against their will worldwide.’ Moreover, it is estimated that ‘between 12-27 million people’ (Elizabeth Pathy Salett 2006) have been victimised by the human traffickers. Consequently these figures evidently prove that human trafficking is one of major organised criminal activities in today world.

This paper will investigate human trafficking in general and particular attention will be given to using of human trafficking by a terrorist organisation namely, The Kurdish Worker Party (PKK). Because, ‘this 21<sup>st</sup> Century manifestation of the slave trade is currently a multi-billion dollar industry built on consumer demand for a single product—fellow human beings. Human traffickers offer consumers several ‘products’—child soldier, domestic servant, exotic dancer, manual laborer, etc’ (Bensenia 2010), organ trade. The PKK needs money in order to continue its

terrorists' activities. Due to its lucrative attractions, as literature clearly indicates that not only the PKK but also other type of criminal and terrorist organisations are in this industry.

In the paper, initially human trafficking to and from Turkey will be investigated. Then the birth of the PKK, terrorism and its terrorist activities in Turkey especially summarised. The PKK's involvement in human trafficking will be analysed by sub-section including case studies as stories of those people who have been victim in human trafficking, and I have collected data by using a qualitative methods. Finally a conclusion will be drawn from the paper.

### **1.1 Human Trafficking From Turkey**

The recent years Turkey does not became one of main channel for human traffickers who trafficking human from Asia to Europe Unions, because Turkey has border with Greece, Romania and Bulgaria; but also it become one of the destinations. As states that 'Turkey remains a destination for human trafficking in Black Sea region and victims from Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in particular' (Devlet 2007). Further, one states that 'along the "north Balkan route" or "Istanbul Express," illegal migrants travel from Turkey to the European Union by way of Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic' (Traughber 2008). It is interesting that the Western Europe 'tends to serve as the destination in the transit route, particularly from poorer regions of south Eastern Europe to the more affluent areas of Western Europe. ... As western Europe continues to function as a hosting hub for networks of terrorists and drug, arms, and human traffickers alike' (Traughber 2008).

It seems that human trafficking activities have risen since 1990s; many people have been trafficked from and through Turkey to every parts of the world in general particularly in the Europe. The majority of these people were from Turkey who had been forced by the traffickers to participate in terrorists' organisations such as the PKK (Migdalovitz 1994). Why did/ does Turkey become one of the main locations for human traffickers? There could be several reasons; this paper will not investigate all but only one which relates to terrorism.

Turkey is one of the countries has been fighting with terrorism for nearly last forty years since 1984. This fighting has caused huge amount of migration. People who were used to live in that particular region where the fighting took place decided or forced to make decision to go

somewhere else. The majority of these people went to other cities in Turkey and some of them decided to go out of the country. People, who want to migrate to other countries, need guidance and information about those countries.

It is known fact that Turkey begun sending its people to European cities as worker from 1960s, mainly Germany dues to the signing of a labour recruitment agreement between West Germany and Turkey on 30 October 1961. Thus, ‘German companies were mainly interested in semi-skilled or unskilled laborers for poorly paid, unpopular jobs on assembly lines and in shift work. Poor, remote regions of Turkey were the preferred recruitment areas’ (Matthias Bartsch 2010).

In addition, ‘Turkey signed similar agreements with other European countries, including Austria, Belgium, Holland, France, and Sweden. Many of these guest workers confounded expectations, however, by settling down and even bringing their families to join them (Kirisci 2010).

These poor and remote regions of Turkey is where the fighting taking place with Turkish security forces and the PKK terrorists. In other word, these earlier immigrants to Europe have been organised and asked them by the PKK to assist the ‘new immigrants’. In actual case, these new immigrants are not ‘immigrants’ at all they are maninly subjected to the ‘human trafficking’ by the PKK. However, it is clear that so far this issue has not drawn any attention neither academics nor the prevention of organised crime agencies. One of the reasons is, when these people have been transferred to the Western cities, capitals, the network of the terrorist organisation provides great amount of help and supports. For example, its law firms apply ‘asylum’ behalf of these people, business link provide jobs and accommodation which makes everything seem legal.

As stated by Kirisci:

Since the mid-1980s, asylum seekers have been heading for Western Europe. They have been seeking protection from the consequences of the Turkish military's intervention in civilian politics in 1980 and the increase in the violence surrounding efforts to suppress a separatist movement by Turkey's large Kurdish minority, which by most accounts makes up roughly 20 percent of the total population ... According to government statistics, the violence surrounding the Kurdish problem in Turkey, especially during the first half of the 1990s, led to the displacement of approximately 330,000 people from their regular places of residence. However, the Turkish Human Rights Association puts

the number of people internally displaced at more than 2.5 million. The majority of these displaced people have been Kurds. According to UNHCR statistics, during the course of the 1990s almost 340,000 Turkish citizens applied for asylum in various European countries.’ (Kirisci 2010)

According to Kurdish Institute of Paris, number of Kurds in Europe in 1995 was stated in the table (Kurdish Institute of Paris 2010)

Germany	600.000	650.000
France	100.000	120.000
Netherlands	70.000	80.000
Switzerland	60.000	70.000
Belgium	50.000	60.000
Austria	50.000	60.000
Sweden	25.000	30.000
Great-Bretain	20.000	25.000
Greece	20.000	25.000
Danmark	8.000	10.000
Norway	4.000	5.000
Italy	3.000	4.000
Finlande	2.000	3.000

The PKK had begun importing its terrorism into Germany at the beginning of the 1990s ... For the time being, Kongra Gel, which is thought to have 11,500 members in Germany, [and] ...is constantly founding new groups whose connections to PKK circles are deliberately obscured. ...According to security authorities, Kongra Gel discretely collects money -- in the millions -- for Kurdish causes. Those who don't contribute receive a friendly reminder to pay their "taxes." (Musharbash 2007).

Similar statement is made by another author of same publication as

there is a huge support based for the PKK in Germany, which is home to an estimated 500,000 Kurds. According to a recent report from Germany's domestic intelligence agency, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, there are around 11,500 supporters of [the Kongra-Gel](#), the name the PKK adopted in 2003. ... According to the intelligence agencies, Kongra-Gel collects millions of euros in Germany each year for its "freedom fight." The organization usually demands that its supporters donate one month's wages per year, and those unwilling to cough up are expressly reminded that they have to pay this "tax." (Wittrock 2008).

Before the PKK has started its terrorist activities, as stated that many Kurds have migrated to European capital as immigrant workers. Initially these people were not very much aware of their ethnicity and belongingness. Since then these people have begun re-discovering their identity and ethnicity due to the PKK's activities among these people. After a while, the PKK has set up its network which will be used later by the PKK illegal activities such as drug and human trafficking.

In sum, all the evidently prove that the PKK uses these thousands of Kurdish ethnic communities live in these country where become the main place for the PKK human trafficking activities. It does not mean that the PKK does not involve in any human trafficking activities in Turkey. They do, but I will not elaborate this in the paper.

## **1.2 The birth of PKK (The Kurdistan Workers Party)**

### **1.3 The Kurds in Turkey**

The Ottoman Empire disintegrated during and after the First World War into several states. One these state is The Republic of Turkey established on 29 October 1923. However, the Turkish Grand National Council (TGNC) was set up on 23 April 1920. During this time, the future status of Kurdistan and the Kurds was disputed between the parties. The Republic of Turkey and the United Kingdom controlled the area of Kurdistan. The treaty of Sevres provided for the creation of a state of Kurdistan on 10th August 1920, but Turkey refused to ratify it. The treaty of Lausanne, July 1923, replaced that of Sevres, but omitted Kurdistan altogether. This treaty proposed to divide Kurdistan into four parts. These were: Eastern Kurdistan, which would go to Iran; Southern Kurdistan would go to Iraq; South-West Kurdistan would go to Syria; and Middle and North-West Kurdistan, which is about 250,000 square kilometres and the largest part of it, would go to Turkey. Turkey did not accept this partition at all in practice. However, Turkey's policy under the republic towards Kurds and other ethnic groups was not to recognise them as different ethnic groups.

The new Republic aimed to create a 'new nation' which consisted of all remaining ethnic groups in Turkey. Therefore, its policy under the republic towards Kurds particularly and other ethnic groups in general was not to recognise them as different ethnic groups, but instead to 'create an authentic Turkish nation within its own borders' (The PKK official Home Page n.d.). This policy was also part of the new Republic modernisation project that might be called a 'nation and state

building' project. The modernisation project on or activities of the nation building and state building have continued throughout the republican period, although, the Republic of Turkey is a remaining part of the Ottoman state. Apart from the name, there was nothing new in this new state. In other words, land, economy, politics, education and ethnicity were part of the old system. The new rulers wanted to turn all these into the new state that would be completely different from the old one by implementing the nation building and state building policies. Thus, their understanding of nationalism or nation building was to replace 'a universalist Ottoman worldview and the Islamic culture which lay behind it' (Kieser, Introduction 2006, vii-xvii) with a new form of nationalism without the Islamic culture. In order to replace their 'ideal nation building and state building policies', they started passing revolutionary laws from the parliament. This is called 'the Kemalist revolution' which began in 1923 and impacted on the whole history of the Republican period of Turkey.

The 1961 constitution aimed to continue further reform in Turkish political, social and economic life. For these, the constitution gave more freedom to individuals. This new liberal reform and Turkish leftists encouraged Kurdish elites to join them. The Kurds joined the leftists because the regime had suppressed them, and their region was one of the poorest areas in Turkey which was used by the leftists' propaganda to convince the public for supporting their cause which was bringing communism to Turkey.

During 1960s, Turkey had changed significantly due to increasing numbers of educational establishments, economic development, and migration from rural to urban environments. All these factors produced a new type of politician, elites and writers among the Kurdish ethnic groups. Some of these people started publishing newspapers, and setting up legal political organisations. One of these noticed 'initially, Kurdish nationalists participating in (and at times leading) the TWP found it difficult to convince the party to recognize the Kurdish issue. In 1970, at the Party's Fourth Congress, the first statement concerning Kurds was made: 'There are Kurdish people in the East of Turkey [...] The fascist authorities representing the ruling classes have subjected the Kurdish people to a policy of assimilation and intimidation which has often become a bloody repression' (Romano 2006, 43). There was another military coup in Turkey in 1971 which closed and banned all these kinds of organisations, subsequently Kurdish activists went underground.

That was the reason why during the Republican history that Turkey (the establishment/ the state) or the Kemalist ideology of the Turkish state had not tried to recognise any ethnicity in Turkey. The new Republic also completely refused to comply with the Sevres Treaty. The prominent tendency of the Republic is denial of ethnicity and those people's rights, and encouraging rapidly centralist nationalism which arose since the establishment of Turkey, none of its constitution states any ethnicity or their ethnic rights. Particularly, the Constitution of Turkey does not recognise Kurds as an ethnic group in Turkey. For example, the Constitution of 1982 states in Article 66: 'everyone bound to the Turkish state through the bond of citizenship is a Turk'.

#### **1.4 Terrorism**

It is clear that there are different types of terrorism (Association 22) (Lizardo 2007), each one of which is a product of a political system. (Crenshaw 8- 11 March 2005). Crenshaw states that 'terrorism is a form of political action. It cannot be taken out of specific historical contexts or treated as a generic phenomenon. It is a strategy rooted in political discontent, used in the service of many different beliefs and doctrines that help legitimize and sustain violence. Ideologies associated with nationalism, revolution, religion, and defence of the status quo have all inspired terrorism'. Political systems, political establishments, security apparatuses, economic structure and social relations are the same, but there are similarities. Each terrorist organisation will develop differently, but all will have to pass through the same stages. The time and duration at the stages will vary and one stage will not necessarily follow the next one. In some terrorist organisations each stage can be clearly distinguished, but others may have stage one and two together, or stage two and three together, or all three stages together. The reason is that the formations of some terrorist organisation proceed much more rapidly than others, depending on the political system which produces it. Thus it will be easier to distinguish between the stages with a group which develops slowly than with one whose development is accelerated due to the political conditions in which it finds itself.

The birth of any form of terrorism is important. However, it is generally difficult to perceive with total clarity. People tend not to pay attention to or even notice a 'terrorist' group until such time as the group actually carries out terrorist actions. For example, the PKK was established in 1973, but the Turkish authorities did not pay serious attention to it until 1984, when it began violent action.

After a five-year ideological period of formation, the PKK was officially founded in 1978. During this five year period, the people who made the decision to form the PKK considered waging a political and military struggle for national liberation. 'In the period from 1970s and early 1980s, the ideological and political line of national liberation was formulated' (The PKK official Home Page n.d.), according to a member of the PKK. At the same time, it was a very difficult time for them, because creating an organisation and finding sympathisers and money takes a long time. After 1984, the organisation changed its structure. 'The People's Liberation Army of Kurdistan (ARGK) began operating in August 1984. The PKK created the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan (ERNK) in 1985 to bolster its recruitment, intelligence, and propaganda activities' (Hudson 1999.), which were part of the PKK, These changes made the organisation, 'after 1989, a popular movement that strengthened in the region and could not face any problems in finding new recruits, weapons or money. Kurdish people largely accepted it' (Imset 1995). Then the PKK started 'to establish local authority in various areas, filling the gap of state authority. Secret Kurdish schools started functioning in the darkness of the night. The number of court cases heard at Turkish civil courts declined rapidly as so-called PKK peoples' tribunals came into being. In several provinces the PKK even set up its local police and intelligence units' (Imset 1995).

After 9/11, the PKK was forced to change its name to 'Congress for Freedom and Democracy in Kurdistan' (KADEK), as the USA stated that the PKK was a terrorist organisation. Since then, the Turkish government convinced the USA administration that KADEK was also a terrorist organisation. When this name was recorded as such by the USA, KADEK reacted by disbanding itself in 2003 and renaming itself again, now as the 'Kurdistan People's Congress' (Kongra-Gel).

## **2 Terrorism and Its Cost**

A terrorist organisation, namely the PKK began its terrorist activities in Turkey killing one soldier and wounding another one who died after five days later, on the 15th of August 1984. Since then tens of thousands of citizens were killed. According to Defence Ministry statistics (October 2008), the total number of security forces who have lost their lives in this struggle is 7, 946 and during this time, according to Başbuğ (Chief in Staff), some 32 thousand terrorists were killed and 14 thousands terrorists have been captured. In addition to this, some 5,560 civilian lost their life (Berberoglu 2008).

The deputy Prime Minister announced that the economic cost of the PKK's terror to Turkey is more than \$300 billion (Ajansi 2008). Although this is a fact; but 'the Turkish government, for example, has claimed that there is no Kurdish problem in Turkey, but rather a socio-economic problem in its south eastern regions. [...] Kurdish elites, mainly tribal chiefs, nobles, and religious sheikhs, considered their options and in many cases openly pushed for a Kurdish state or autonomous region' (Romano 2006, 26).

## **2.1 Role of the PKK in Human Trafficking**

The role of the PKK in human trafficking is real and huge and it is recognisable in two areas namely 'recruitment' and 'funding'. It is known fact that 'Terrorist organisations require funds from a variety of sources. Contributions for the PKK are collected from Kurdish businesses operation in Germany, France and the United Kingdom. ... One of the other funding sources for the PKK is human, weapons and drug smuggling between the East and Western Europe.' (Cerrah 2008, 140).

One source states that

Europe is particularly important for the organization as it is in Europe where the organization generates most of its revenue to finance these cumbersome activities.

Legal and illegal sources of PKK/KONGRA-GEL revenue can be cited as follows:

- Extortion (largely from Turkish businessmen).
- Revenues obtained from the "special nights" organized by affiliates.
- Sales of publications etc.
- Revenues obtained from commercial establishments belonging to / affiliated with the organization.
- Money collected through drug-trafficking, arms-smuggling and trafficking in human beings.' (Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2008).

According to one source,

the PKK was run like a criminal gang. Financing came from a "revolutionary tax" provided by Kurdish businessmen in Turkey who were forced to pay or face the consequences, including murder, kidnapping, ransoming and destruction of personal

property. The PKK also organized protection rackets targeting Kurdish owned businesses across Europe. In addition, voluntary financing was provided by the Kurdish Diaspora in Europe through cultural associations and information centers such as the Kurdish Employers Association, the Kurdish Islamic Movement, and the Kurdish Red Crescent. These organizations raised funds for the PKK and facilitated money transfers through subsidiary foundations in Switzerland, Britain, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark and Cyprus. The PKK also financed its operations through drug and arms smuggling, human trafficking and extortion (Phillips 2007).

In addition to these, the organisation also have closer link with some legal organisation in the west which facilitate their illegal activities. As states that ‘besides affiliate organizations, there are sympathizer organizations such as the Confederation of Kurdish Associations in Europe (KON-KURD, headquartered in Brussels) and the International Kurdish Businessmen Union (KAR-SAZ, in Rotterdam) which constantly exchanges information and perform legitimate or semi-legitimate commercial activities and donations.’ (wikipedia 2010).

The statute of the Kon-Kurd explains as stated ‘KON-KURD is a European wide organisation that aims at achieving, defending and developing the social, economic, political and cultural rights of the Kurdish people. KON-KURD is an organisation that adopts the principles of the international law and the international human rights law as the setting for its activities and its conduct is within the legal mechanism and democratic framework.’ (KON-KURD 2010)

A paper specially investigated Kurds in Greece put special emphasis on ‘organised’ refugee and explain the role of ‘politicized Kurds’ namely the PKK as ‘The ‘organized’ are members of Kurdish parties from Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria, that opened offices in Athens and other Greek cities during the last decade, in order to raise awareness and internationalize the parties’ political projects. For ‘organized’ refugees, migration means that they may share accommodation and everyday life with comrades, and definitely contribute to the party - financially, by working in the party offices, by joining demonstrations, hunger strikes, etc. According to interviews, the party provides its members with protection in the host country, and often with the guarantee of a safe journey, by employing other party members to cross the border, or using good contacts with smugglers – this is where smuggling meets political networks. Above all, ‘organized’ migrants

distinguish themselves from the rest because of their identity as political exiles - a Diaspora identity rather than a migrant one' (Papadopoulou 2002).

One interviewed about 108 trafficked migrant and the most significant nationalities among migrants trafficked to the Baltic States have been Kurds...' (Salt 2000). Therefore, the Kurds do not become smuggled and trafficked in the Western Europe but also in the Eastern Europe too. It is known fact that the PKK is active in the Baltic States and the Russia.

The PKK has its own network which is used for smuggling, human and drug trafficking and other legal and illegal activities. One tells the importance of having supports

by fellow citizens who live abroad, trafficking networks, and other contextual factors. For example, a Kurdish immigrant who had made use of trafficking networks reported in the Cologne study that he had no contact with foreigners regarding his travel logistics during the entire journey from a village in the province of Bingöl to Cologne via Bosnia, Albania, Italy, and France. All contact persons, except for a French driver who gave him a lift at the final border crossing from Italy into France, were fellow citizens originally from Bingöl' (Sirkeci Spring-Fall 2003).

Without this network, none would be able travel from the Eastern part of Turkey to one of the Western European capital. Therefore, the network is strong and able to facilitate a safe route for those people who are vulnerable and seek to have a better life in the West.

## **2.2 Recruitment**

The recruitment of the PKK is also called a kind of 'human trafficking' because people forced to join the PKK. As states that 'the organization used children within its militant force 86% per cent of who had joined the organization was to bolster their families incomes following offers that it would provide for their families in return. All of the new recruits reported that these offers were not fulfilled. 80% of those surveyed also reported that they had actively stopped other family members—usually younger brothers—from joining the organization too. 60% of those surveyed had an education level below high school level. When asked why they stayed in the organization, two thirds stated that they were afraid of facing reprisals. They also feared for the safety of their families, who would be at risk as well. Five per cent said that they feared punishment by the Republic of Turkey' (wikipedia 2010) and (Hurriyet 2007).

It is important to note that the organisation smuggles not only adult but also children too which is in common. Thus, one academic (Väyrynen 2003), states various statistics about children smuggling in to Western Europe and the United State of America. In our case, particularly these children later stage become their recruits for armed struggle and terrorist activities in Turkey and other legal and illegal activities in Europe. As states that ‘child soldiers were also used by the PKK. By 1998 there were 3,000 children in the PKK’s ranks, 10% of them girls. Recruitment reportedly occurred both in Turkey and Europe, with some children joining voluntary while others were forced to do so’ (Gurr 2008).

One assumes that there is a need to distinguish what is ‘joining voluntarily’ and ‘joining unwillingly’. These people came to the West either as a child or born in the West. Then, their entire lives have been with the terrorist’ organisation recruiters. They have been master minded and given training how to be a good ‘Guerrilla’. For example, I visited one family who have three daughters and one son. One of his daughter stated that his brother would not be a good guerrilla, because he scare off from things and she would be a good guerrilla and would join ‘voluntarily’ the PKK armed group in the Northern Iraq. She is only 8 years old. It is not plausible to accept that an 8 years old girl know about terrorism, guerrilla fighting and war. However, her parent, his father, is one of active members of the PKK and helps the organisation to recruit people for the organisation.

Majority of these people even they had never ever involved in any political activities in their life. Solicitor firms or organisations have made their asylum applications. The required forms and evidences have been prepared by these organisation behalf of the applications who had never ever know what information filled in and what statements have been made. They just signed and begun to memorise what they have to say at the courts.

During their waiting time for their trial, the PKK employed them in shops, restaurants, take-away which have been run and controlled by the PKK. They have not had full payment and fair working hours, because they had been under threat of the PKK. Director of the Europol states that ‘It appears that Afghans, Chinese and Kurds are the main groups of people being trafficked’ (Bruggeman 2002) in Europe. It is assumed that the majority of these Kurds are trafficked by the PKK.

This conflict and arm struggles are used by the PKK and its network in order to gain European backing and to arrange its financing. Hence, the terrorist organisation needs resource in order to continue its struggle against the government. In other part of the world, other terrorist organisations also have used ‘human trafficking’ for this purposes. Especially, since the Gulf War, the PKK has managed transferred hundreds thousands people to Western Capitals and Cities for these purposes. The terrorist organisation used ‘political asylum’ as excuse for obtaining visas/ settlement for these people. Since, these smuggled and trafficked people would serve for many years to the purposes of the PKK. Since then it is evidently proved that these people have continued financial contribution the organisation and their children are asked to join in armed struggle against Turkish security forces if they are fit and enable carrying out that kind of armed struggle. Further, some these people are used other legal and illegal activities including selling drugs in European capitals. For example, more than five hundred people have been prisoned because of selling drug in London for last few year behalf of the PKK.

This terrorism may have been misunderstood and misperceived by many European politicians and human right organisations. They always blame Turkey and Turkey’s treatment on ethnic Kurds in Turkey and they have given great amount supports to ethnic Kurds who have been smuggled or forced to come to European capitals. It is not right to defend Turkish policies towards ethnic Kurds during the conflicts; however, it can be understood.

During their asylum process, these people work at the organisation’s work places such as ‘take-a-ways- fast-food shops’, ‘warehouses’ and other business illegally and the most of the time without any payments. Even if these people have been granted asylum, they cannot be freed by the organisation. If they want to be free from the terrorist organisation, they become subjected to terrorist threat or tortures.

### **2.3 People Stories from Western Capitals**

When one speaks with those people, who have been brought up by the PKK, that person will hear different story, but similar process. I have to admit that it is not easier to collect information from people who had been subjected in human trafficking, because they are still afraid of the terrorist organisation. However, their stories are real. They are forced to come to European capital and forced to stay and work a place where the organisation think is suitable for them. According to Laciner, the PKK is ‘**A Privileged Terrorist Organization?**’ and have been

treated nicely by some western government. That is the reason why they take people to the western capitals. He further states that ‘the PKK controls the drug business and human trafficking in Europe and all the money comes from this illegal business goes to the so-called media institutions. The PKK media in European countries make money-laundering, and the organization uses all this sources to finance its activities. The PKK has offices in Denmark, Belgium and in many other Western European cities. The US officials openly blamed the EU states of allowing the PKK propaganda activities in their countries’ (Laciner 2008).

‘Many Kurdish organizations have operated freely in Europe over the last three decades. They avail themselves of the liberal laws of the European Union and its strong support of the freedom of press and speech. Kurdish cultural information centers, organizations and websites have been engaged in dissemination of information about the Kurdish struggle in Turkey. And many Europeans have come to sympathize with the Kurds, condemning Turkey’s human rights abuses while ignoring the PKK’s terrorist methods’ (Gurr 2008)

The organisation’s legal law firms make ‘asylum’ application behalf of those new comers to the relevant government department. These applications some time take more than two years. During these time, the new comers have to work and stay at that premises without their wishes. When their asylum application have been approved, then they apply for ‘free housing’ and other ‘social’ benefits and they do not need to stay and work at that premises. This time, once more the organisation ask them to run a business which has been owned by the terrorist organisation, or the organisation give money to them who are able to set up a new business. It is obvious that, these are not for free. For a return, these people have to pay ‘contributions’ to the terrorist organisation for entire life. It is difficult to state that these contributions are voluntarily and people paying willingly. There are always threat, and force in order to obtain these contribution by the PKK.

For example, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Belgian authority raid raids on premises suspected of belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and detained dozens of senior members of the group. It is stated that ‘There are two primary allegations directed against Roj TV and the other people detained in the Belgian operation. One is the financial fraud and tax evasion while the other is distributing PKK propaganda, educating PKK members, recruiting members for the PKK, human trafficking, counterfeiting and racketeering’ (Today's Zaman 2010).

In short, all these activities clearly indicate that the PKK is using ‘human trafficking’ as part of its raising funds.

### **2.3.1 Case 1:**

The South of England (UK), there are three brother people. Initially, they were promised and attractive and wealthy life in Britain. In this discussion, people were not aware of the PKK was part of the deal. In this stage, people were talking about a “sebeke (human smuggler/ trader). And they were asked to pay considerable amount of for their smuggling to Britain. After they had paid their money, they started to wait for their call. According to one study, ‘the illegal transit from the Middle East via Turkey and Bulgaria to Western Europe costs USD 7.500, the migrants paying for each phase of the journey separately’ (Janssens 2006).

Then they were smuggled from Turkey to Balkans by a lorry. This is usually, either in a lorry, among the goods, or under the lorry. Then they were travelled to France. This journey took a few months. Then their travel arrangements were made for Britain where there is tight security. If they were not caught by security forces, they reached to Britain. These three people have arrived in Britain. After their arrival, they met the PKK’s people who had allocated them where they stay and work. There were informed that the organisation would arrange all their asylum application.

During this application process, they would stay and work at that place for free of charge, because the *sebeke* demand more money from them to pay extra, because their travels and other expenses were used for an excuse. Some occasion, the smuggled people were informed time, but these were not informed how long they had to work for.

Later on, these people find out that their applications had been done. The reason was that they were wanted to work more for the organisation. When these people wanted to leave and to do their applications by themselves, there were threatened that their families or members of their families would be killed. In other words, they were forced to make a decision which was obvious; they had to carry out the work for the organisation.

One of these three, the youngest one, managed to find a solicitor who had applied for him. Then he has been granted asylum statute. Then he has set up his own business on the one hand, on the other he has been forced to pay regular contribution to the organisation. During this time, this person had struggle with a lot of problems, he was relatively young, but he become older, and

has stress related illnesses. One of the other two is still working for the organisation. The other one is a bus driver, and continue paying regular money to the organisation.

### **2.3.2 Case 2:**

In 1990s, many villages were emptied because of terrorism in that part of the region. This is due to the ‘displacement policy’ of Turkish government in 1990s which has resulted ‘Residents from about 378,000 villagers were forcibly evacuated’ (Phillips 2007). Then people who were used to live in those villages went to European capitals through the PKK’s smuggling activities. When they arrived in the Western Capital, they did not know how to speak the languages and they did not know where to work and how to work. The PKK helped these people to find jobs, to make their asylum application and to find a place to stay. It is obvious that, not only these people but anyone who had similar experience would like the PKK despite it was known a terrorist organisation. Later on, the PKK educate them by its propaganda activities and asked them to contribute financially to the PKK. Over the years, these people become either sympathiser of the organisation or be part of the organisation. If they are part of the organisation, they have to prove by themselves. For these reason they have to be active members of the organisation which including running business for the organisation, collecting money, organising events and attending march etc. if they have children who is more than 18 years old, they have to convince to send them to the PKK’s ‘military camps’ in the Northern Iraq

These two cases clearly indicate that the PKK is part of human trafficking and doing it. Thus, it helps their short term and long term aims and objectives which are the organisation need financially survive and recruiting new people for the organisation.

## **2.4 Human Trafficking as part of Terrorist activities**

Terrorists have involved in many activities, which include trafficking in general human trafficking in particular. One states that ‘Terrorism and human trafficking have proved to be entrenched and growing problems. ... As human trafficking has become a significant component of the underground economy, the likelihood of relationships between trafficking groups and terrorist networks has increased’ (Traugher, *The New Silk Road of Terrorism and Organized Crime: The Key to Countering the Terror-Crime Nexus* 2008). This increase will continue, because terrorist organisations receive further limitations on their finance resources by national and international governments.

As it is stated in the above that, the western governments do not like to search and speak to ‘immigrant communities’ where those terrorist organisation operate and do the ‘human trafficking’. In other words, human trafficking is real and in the European capitals and it is source of terrorist organisation as ‘the drug smuggling and human trafficking were continued as financial sources of the PKK’ (Laciner 2008).

### **3 Conclusion**

The paper clearly proves that terrorist organisations play an important role in human trafficking, despite it is stated that ‘direct links between terrorists and human traffickers are difficult to identify’ (Traughber, *The New Silk Road of Terrorism and Organized Crime: The Key to Countering the Terror-Crime Nexus* 2008). One academic study acknowledged that ‘Turkey is one of the main gateways to Europe for immigrants from Iraq (especially Kurds), Iran, Afghanistan, and many other Asian countries, including China’. This statement indicates a part of the truth. The other part is the PKK involving in these human smuggling from outside and inside of Turkey and they smuggle people from Turkey for their recruitment and the most of these people are forced to go to Europe by the PKK. In other words, it is a lucrative business and the PKK earning money when these people are smuggled and recruiting for regular and continues financial contributions and some of them for their armed struggle. In short, the involvement of the PKK is one of the reasons why Turkey is one of the main gateways for immigrants.

Some people think of that all these happen because of ethnic conflict in that particular region of Turkey. However, one argues that this is not entirely true by stating ‘we cannot generalize about Kurdish migration in relation to the ethnic conflict, but only suggest the possibility of a different migratory regime for Kurds within the wider trends of migration from Turkey. This differentiation is highly likely to be influenced by on-going ethnic tension and armed ethnic conflict’ (Sirkeci Spring-Fall 2003).

Finally it is clear that the PKK has role in human smuggling and trafficking for its benefits.

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