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## New Study on Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Peru's Logging and Gold Mining Sectors

A new study conducted by IOM and the Catholic University of Peru sheds new light on human trafficking for labour exploitation in illegal logging and gold mining in the Madre de Dios region of the country.

Peru is a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking with a predominance of internal trafficking of women for sexual exploitation. However, children and men are often trafficked to work in the mining, logging and agricultural industries.

The Madre de Dios region in southeastern Peru bordering Brazil and Bolivia is a sparsely populated and isolated area with vast natural resources, including precious woods and gold. In the past five years the area has received more than 20,000 internal migrants, leading researchers to believe that attractive job offers are leading poor Peruvians from neighbouring regions to fall prey to human traffickers.

The study confirmed that 90 per cent of the victims are men from the high-Andean region who are trafficked to work in illegal logging activities and the informal gold mining sector. Twenty per cent of the males trafficked are boys between 12 and 14 years old.

"The men receive false employment offers and end up incurring large debts that force them to work indefinitely without any salary in order to pay off the supposed debt," explains Dolores Cortés, coordinator of the research and IOM's Regional Counter-Trafficking Specialist.

The same tactics are employed to entrap victims who are exploited to work in the chestnut harvest, as well as for sexual exploitation and organ removal.

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The men working in gold mining said they were also offered certain rights and benefits of gold found, but the promises never materialized. The women are offered jobs as cooks or sales clerks, but some end up forced into prostitution.

The traffickers offer their victims an advance payment of 200 to 300 Soles (between 6 and 9 US Dollars) and during the first three months, the victims said they received clothing and food as well as

basic health care and medicines.

"The initial support provided by the traffickers serves to entrap the victims. The victims see this as acts of kindness and goodwill on the part of the employers," adds Cortés. But their situation changes after this initial period.

The research titled: "Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation: The Case of Gold Mining and Illegal Logging in Madre de Dios (La trata de personas con fines de explotación laboral: El caso de la minería aurífera y la tala ilegal de madera en Madre de Dios), was compiled largely using field research and interviews with the victims, local and regional authorities, civil society and local residents.

A member of the research team of the Institute for International Studies (IDEI) of Peru's Catholic University managed to gain access to the remote jungle areas and, armed with a mobile telephone, transmitted information to his colleagues in the capital, Lima.

IOM and IDEI are holding a series of meetings with the authorities to discuss the findings and to ensure the Madre de Dios region becomes part of national counter-trafficking efforts.

Peru is also witness to high rates of human trafficking for domestic labour with international trafficking mainly characterized by women taken to countries such as Argentina, Japan, Spain and other countries for sexual exploitation.

The report is available in Spanish at "[paragraph-link-no-underline](http://www.oimlima.org.pe/docs/trata-exlaboral-madredios.pdf)" href="http://www.oimlima.org.pe/docs/trata-exlaboral-madredios.pdf" target="\_blank" title="http://www.oimlima.org.pe/docs/trata-exlaboral-madredios.pdf".

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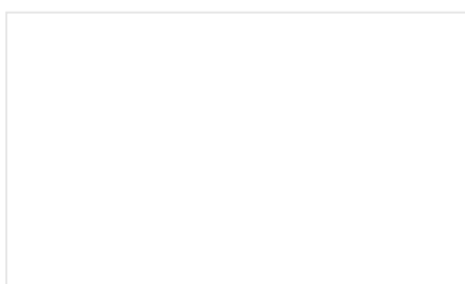
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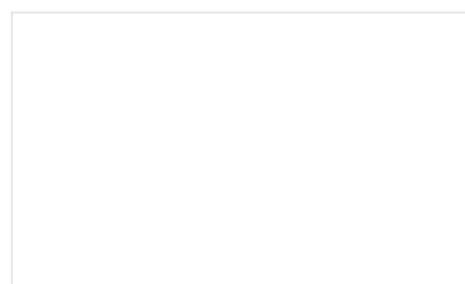
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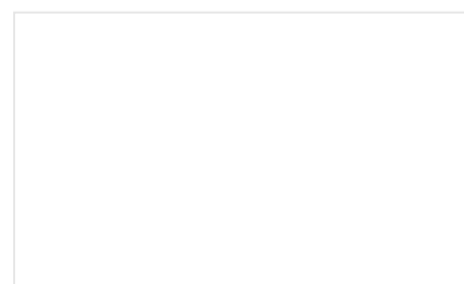
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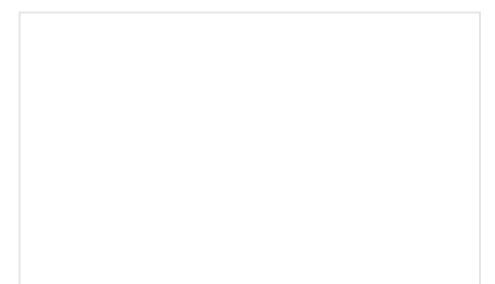
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