How to Combat the Transnational Human Security Threat of Organ Trafficking: The Transnational Human Security Threat of Organ Trafficking – What is it and How Does it Work?

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Photograph 2005 Tareq Salahuddin Kidney Transplant Surgery Flickr

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There is not enough supply to meet the demand of organ transplants worldwide.

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the UN or by private military and security companies (PMSGs). However, there are many different policies that have The international community must take immediate abien to eachest the structure in 1987 by the World South Sudan regarding human rights atrocties from ethe portificist international is Gos, of the fittes countries of the responsion of the rise in transplants. Prior to that China made it the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the perclassing proteins a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the composition of a stronger sense of national identity among the creation of a stronger sense of national identity among the composition of a stronger sense of national identity among the composition of a stronger sense of national identity among the composition of a stronger sense of national identity among the composition of th The phaited States reaching to we reputible degression to Europa data of the phaited states reaching to over entire degression and the states are the states and the second to be could be co

Iran is one of the few countries that allows for kidney sales, but excludes foreigners from purchasing.

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overlooked because governments do not want to be held accountable for the actions of their citizens.

A New Way of Working for Governments and NGOs

It is difficult for governments to monitor the illegal organ trade. There are many involved, from the donor and purchaser to the immigration officers and police turning blind eyes or accepting bribes. The hospitals and medical teams involved in the surgeries are also responsible, as well as the extensive network of individuals connected to the purchase. It has been

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illegal organ trade in 2007 (Efrat 656). Interestingly, the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group (DICG) helped support the movement in Pakistan, and had reduced the amount of illegal organ transplants in the country, although it continues to be a challenge (Danovitch et al. 1308). Moldova created its organ transplantation law in 2008 in order to combat trafficking (Efrat 656). There have been legal efforts to combat this growing problem, but guiding principles and individualized laws are not enough.

By countries outlawing the practice of organ sales, it has inadvertently driven up the prices of organs, making them more profitable for illicit trade groups. This has created a system that does not identify the root causes of the practice itself (Ambagtsheer and Weimar; Columb 32). Even after outlawing the practice of paying for organs, economically speaking, the wealthy can still pay for the organs on the black market. The demand is what ultimately drives the practice. Then there is the argument that those who are selling their organs should not be considered victims, because they are also driving the practice. Yet, others expect the sellers to play the victim role in order to raise awareness (Columb 37). While there are some who may argue that the sellers of their organs are not victims, there is still a sense of ignorance and injustice in their stories. How did they make the decision to sell their organs? What is their personal story? Did they have all the facts? Were they desperate? This may be

argued that "given the low visibility of the organ trade and its negative effects, governments were unlikely to make the efforts necessary for eliminating this practice," (Efrat 657). However, governments cannot be morality or health police. They can educate, but individuals possess the liberty to make their own decisions. Governments and the organ regulation or distribution organizations both have a responsibility to educate their populations. Despite these opportunities, there are still chances that the organ supply may not drastically increase. Ghods and Savaj argue:

Because the organ shortage has become more severe world-wide, some from the transplant community believe that altruism alone is not enough to satisfy the needs of the thousands of patients who are on renal transplant waiting lists and that providing some financial incentives or social benefits is necessary to increase the number of deceased or living organ donations (1137).

Organ scarcity is the problem, so how do governments manage that problem for those in need

If not in practice already, governments should allow for the extension of organ donations to cadavers. Granted, this will have other concerns that should be addressed with respect to cultural and religious practices. Governments, with the cooperation of NGOs and non-profits, should have national campaigns for organ donations so that people are aware that they can donate post-mortem. This also stands for individuals in comas and on life support; once they pass away, it could be made legal to permit the use of their viable organs unless explicitly stated. This is referred to as "implied consent" (Becker and Elias). There is honor in donating, and there may need to be a cultural shift to accommodate that new way of doing things.

As far as a formal market is concerned, it can be regulated. "Legislation and law enforcement must go hand in hand," (Ambagtsheer and Weimar). Like other activities deemed illicit, supply and demand determines the price. By making the practice illegal, it drives up the price in the black market, and it allows for dangerous procedures to take place and individuals to be preyed upon. Awareness campaigns also need to be created so receiving families are aware of the mistreatment of donors in the black market, and individuals being targeted can be aware of the potential health consequences of their decisions.

Incentives can create a system that becomes more self-sacrificing with a nudge. Individuals who choose to sell their organs as live donors may have a different class of donation from that of a brain-dead individual, coma patient, or post-mortem donor. selling organs compared to freely giving them, all organs should be processed at a specific governmentregulated selling price in order to modulate pricing fairly. This prevents private entities from creating companies for organ sales. Subsidized pricing would be implemented for purchasing rates depending on tax returns/proof of income. This would allow all economic classes to have the ability to purchase organs. This subsidized rate would be based on a percentage of income, which is why the government would modulate the initial selling rate. The market for selling organs should have its own waiting list separate from the donations list, but it would move faster because of the transactions. This allows people who are willing to pay for an organ to be moved to a separate list, alleviating the pressure and waiting time for those on the primary donor list.

Conclusion

The practice of illegal organ transplantation on a transnational scale developed as a response to the international dearth of viable organs for transplant. Even with the generous supply of donated organs, countries across the world still face the problem of increased demand for organs. Individuals add

Decriminalizing organ sales may be the best way to combat this human security concern of organ transplants worldwide.

There are certain sacrifices that a living individual makes compared to the donation from the other aforementioned categories of donors. Therefore, a two-pronged approach to organ donation and sales is proposed. Countries can maintain the illegality of the practice of black market transactions for organ sales. And, it is the responsibility of international governments and international NGOs to enforce this. Therefore, creating a database for transactions could prevent the continuance of black market sales.

Historically, there have been obvious concerns about the wealthy having the primary access to organs. In order to mitigate that, the current donor database with its waiting list should be maintained. For those themselves to donor lists, hoping they can soon have their life-changing surgery. Yet, for many, that day never comes. Others seek out alternatives to the waiting game, and go abroad to take their chances. Those on the giving end of the transaction are often disenfranchised, and selling their organs becomes a quick fix to a larger problem. "Globally, the demand for fresh, healthy human organs is greater than the present legal supply, and is increasing every year. Worldwide the poor are cheated, maimed, and sometimes murdered by ruthless organ traffickers," (Organs Across Borders). Many individuals do not understand the ramifications of the transaction, and they end up selling their organs for a fraction of the selling price that those on the purchasing side end up paying.

Governments and non-governmental organizations alike have made attempts at eliminating the practice by outlawing the selling of organs. Inadvertently, this has created a dangerous transnational crime scheme that has one winner, the organ brokers. These brokers prey on the desperate and weak on both ends of the transaction: the purchasers who are desperate for viable organs for themselves or loved ones, and those who are desperate for money to sustain themselves. Aware of their circumstances, the brokers maximize their profits on both sides by charging exorbitant fees to the highest bidder as well as giving the lowest payments to those making the sacrifice. Documentarian Ric Esther Bienstock said it best in an interview she did with the CNN network in 2014, "What drives the trade are desperate people, generally in the first world and developed countries, who are choosing between life and death. And they're absolutely in despair, and that's what makes them if they have the wherewithal, and the drive, and the ability to seek out a kidney [and other organs] overseas." Ultimately, organ sales fund illicit activity, and have ignited a growing human security concern. This may become even more problematic as transnational crime and terrorist organizations look to find alternative funding streams.

There may be a way to combat this as time continues, but simply outlawing the practice is not sufficient. Decriminalizing organ sales may be the best way to combat this human security concern. Governments should consider what a national organ market could look like. Allowing a sales market to accompany the preexisting donor process can drive the black market practice down drastically, but governments need to comply and not demonize the practice or those willing to put down large sums of money to save their own lives.

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