

The Stain of Organ Trafficking in African States: A Critical Examination

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Keywords:

Crime,
Health,
Human trafficking,
Refugees,
Organ trafficking,
Migration,
THBOR.

Abstract. Organ trafficking, which is the illegal movement or transportation of human organs for sale and transplant to willing and highest bidding patients or buyers, is an international economic crime. Trafficking of human organs in the African States rages on and has become a significant source of concern not only for the African States, but the world at large. This has, by implication, stained the international image and projection of the African States. There have been attempts by several African States to curb this ugly trend by using the instrumentality of the law. Still, all that has yielded only little results owing to the technicality and discreteness with which those involved in this crime operate. It has been argued that the debate over the trafficking of human beings for organ removal (THBOR) remains largely absent from policy debates, as this crime is hardly detected, reported and sparsely researched. However, criminal networks exploit vulnerable populations, central migrants from and within the African States, for this heinous crime. Exploring the doctrinal research approach, this paper x-rays the stains of human organ trafficking in the African States; it found among others that trafficking of human organs is a booming and highly lucrative economic crime entrenched in Africa and perpetuated with so much secrecy. The paper recommends among others the need for sound legislative debate on how to curb the crime in Africa coupled with virile legal frameworks towards curtailing the crime.

1. INTRODUCTION

Organ trafficking¹ is the practice of stealing or buying human organs through exploitation to be sold on a black market for profit.² It is an international crime that is assuming a dangerous dimension by the day.³ In every country the demand for organs is much greater than the supply creating lengthy wait times for patients. Over 114,000 people are on the organ waitlist in the United States, and a new person is added every 10 minutes.⁴ On the average, 20 people die every day waiting for an available organ in the United States alone.⁵

The average wait time by patients who need organ transplants in the United States for a kidney transplant is three to five years and in Germany, it can take up to six years.⁶ Across the world, kidney is the most commonly demanded and transplanted organ every year, partly because dialysis can prolong the life of people waiting for this organ. In 2016 in the US a total of 19,057 kidney transplants occurred, followed by 7,841 liver transplants, 3,191 heart transplants and 2,327 lung transplants. Currently, 150,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ in the United States.⁷

The legally available organs for transplant only satisfy about 10% of the global organ transplant need.⁸ The long waitlists and grim results of waiting too long drive a lot of people to participate in transplant tourism and organ trafficking. Together with the demands in Europe, the Arab World, Australia and Asia it is very clear that there is a crisis of shortage of organs for transplant and hence the reason for desperate patients to go underground. In the absence of enforceable laws to guarantee the safety and the rights of the vulnerable from exploitation, the organ mafia sees a lot of potential to make huge profit by setting up illegal markets. In 1987, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared organ trade to be illegal and against the Universal Declaration of Human Right on the ground that the poorest and weakest are most vulnerable, thus violating the law that emphasizes fair and equal treatment to all human.

Both Germany and the US have ethically run oversight groups that control the organ transplant system.⁹ In the US, the United Network for Organ Sharing is a non-profit oversight group that monitors the fairness of the organ transplants and donation

¹ Also referred to as Organ Harvesting and Transplant Tourism

² Hilary Leong, "Organ Trafficking—A Hidden Crime: World Health Organization (WHO) Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue, and Organ Transplantation" Available at <<https://www.actafrica.org.za/organ-harvesting-an-extremely-hidden-crime/?msclkid=d23c22b8c25a11ec9d7a73173ff67cca>> accessed 13 June 2025

³ Allain J, "Trafficking of Persons for the Removal of Organs and the Admission of Guilt of a South African Hospital -- The State v. Netcare Kwa-Zulu (Pty) Limited", (2011) *Medical Law Review*, 19: 117–22.

⁴ Archer D, "Body snatchers: Organ harvesting for profit" *Psychology Today* (2013) Retrieved from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/reading-between-the-headlines/201311/body-snatchers-organ-harvesting-profit> Accessed April 20, 2025.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Opos and Unos, "Kidney transplant" available at <<http://www.kidneylink.org/TheWaitingList.aspx>> Accessed April 18, 2025.

⁷ US organ transplants increased nearly 20% in five years - CNN

⁸ Martin D, Van Assche K., Dominguez-Gil B., Lopez-Fraga M., Gallont, R., ..., Capron, A. (2019). Strengthening global efforts to combat organ trafficking and transplant tourism: Implications of the 2018 edition of the Declaration of Istanbul. *Transplant Direct*, 5(3). DOI: 10.1097/TXD.0000000000000872

⁹ Organ Trafficking Around the World <<https://humantraffickingsearch.org/organ-trafficking-around-the-world/?msclkid=c65c628cc23711ecbc756c9076f0afe4>> accessed 14 June 2025

system.¹⁰ It is however safe to state that the existence of oversight groups have not eliminated or properly curbed organ trafficking as most of the organs trafficked from Africa, find their way to the western world. Unlike the US and Germany, the majority of the African countries (and several others globally), do not have ethically monitored transplant practices in place, leaving the organ search to fall into the hands of illicit criminal networks who procure an organ at a high price for the donee and an even higher one for the donor. In 2010 the World Health Organization stated that 10,000 kidneys were sold on the black market, meaning one kidney was sold per hour for the entire year.¹¹ The combined lengthy waiting time with unregulated organ transplants has created a lucrative market in illicit organ trafficking especially in Egypt, Kosovo and China.¹²

Nestled between the Mediterranean and Red Seas is the Sinai Peninsula which has long been home to African refugees, but due to the increased violence in Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula has become largely unpoliced and lawless leaving refugees vulnerable to organ traffickers.¹³ Israel recently constructed a fence across the Egypt/Israel border to keep African refugees out which has caused Bedouin traffickers to lose money and look for other lucrative markets. Eritreans make up 95 percent of refugees living on the Sinai Peninsula and recent reports coming from the region indicate that traffickers have been kidnapping Eritreans and demanding large ransoms from their families. Hostages who are unable to pay the ransom have their corneas, livers or kidneys removed by corrupt doctors to sell to the highest bidder.¹⁴

The law seems to be very slow is catching up with the crime of organ trafficking. According to UNODC¹⁵

If crime crosses borders, so must law enforcement. If the rule of law is undermined not only in one country, but in many, then those who defend it cannot limit themselves to purely national means. If the enemies of progress and human rights seek to exploit the openness and opportunities of globalization for their purposes, then we must exploit those very same factors to defend human rights and defeat the forces of crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings.

Sometime in the year 2013, a trial took place for what is thought to be the first time in history that a medical doctor has been charged for harvesting organs for an international criminal network in Kosovo.¹⁶ Impoverished donors had been lured to Kosovo from the old eastern bloc countries and were paid as little as \$10,000 for their kidneys which were then sold to wealthy recipients in Israel for as much as \$130,000. As many as 30 people were duped into selling their kidneys-many were never paid and all were abandoned in Kosovo where they didn't speak the language and were in need of proper medical attention. Organ trafficking is a growing industry possibly due to an enormous 40-45 percent unemployment rate in Kosovo, leaving the citizens with very little options for survival.

In the human rights community, it has long been known that China harvests the organs of its death row prisoners.¹⁷ In 2013, China declared that it will stop using the organs of involuntary death row inmates later that year. There are concerns that this declaration could increase organ trafficking since the organs of death row inmates have traditionally made up 65 percent of all organs used for transplants in China. With over 1.5 million Chinese needing organs, the black market for organs is ripe for the desperate and willing to donate kidneys for money. The black market has become a lucrative option for those willing to sell a kidney and stories of teenagers selling their kidneys for expensive electronics keep appearing on the Internet.¹⁸

Unfortunately, so do stories of children being drugged and left for dead as thieves steal their corneas also ring bell. China remains one of the top destinations for transplant tourism, where wealthy organ recipients pay top dollar for the required organ with no questions asked about the organ's origins. There are currently 600 transplant centers operating in China.¹⁹ In a shocking

¹⁰ JG, IG, 'Organ Trafficking and Migration: A Bibliometric Analysis of an Untold Story' *Int'l Journal on Environ Res Public Health*. 2020 May; 17(9): 3204. Published online 2020 May 5. Available at <http://www.doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17093204>. Accessed 18 April 2024.

¹¹ Ambagtsheer, F., Zaitch, D. and Weimar, W 'The Battle for Human Organs: Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism in a Global Context', *Global Crime*, 14: 1-26. (2013),

¹² Shimazono Y., 'World Health Organization: The State of the International Organ Trade: A Provisional Picture Based on Integration of Available Information' Available at: <https://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/85/12/06-039370/en/> [PMC free article] [PubMed] Accessed April 19, 2025.

¹³ Weitzer R, (2011), 'Sex Trafficking and the Sex Industry: The Need for Evidence-Based Theory and Legislation', *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, 101: 1337-69. World Health Organisation (WHO) (2010), 'World Health Organisation (WHO) Guiding Principles on Human Cell, Tissue and Organ Transplantation' [Online], WHO, available online at www.who.int/transplantation/Guiding_PrinciplesTransplantation_WHA63.22en.pdf. Wyatt, T. (2009), 'Exploring the Organization of Russia Far East's Illegal Wildlife Trade: Two Case Studies of the Illegal Fur and Illegal Falcon Trades', *Global Crime*, 10: 144-54. Yea, S. (2010), 'Trafficking in Part(s): The Commercial Kidney Market in a Manila Slum, Philippines', *Global Social Policy*, 10: 358-76.

¹⁴ Eritreans are the native inhabitants of Eritrea, as well as the global diaspora of Eritreans displaced by the Eritrean War of Independence and seeking refuge from human rights violations by the Eritrean government. Eritreans constitute several component ethnic groups, nine of which are officially recognized by the Government of Eritrea. Officially the State of Eritrea, is a country in the Horn of Africa region of Eastern Africa, with its capital (and largest city) at Asmara. It is bordered by Ethiopia in the south, Sudan in the west, and Djibouti in the southeast. The northeastern and eastern parts of Eritrea have an extensive coastline along the Red Sea. The nation has a total area of approximately 117,600 km² (45,406 sq mi), and includes the Dahlak Archipelago and several of the Hanish Islands.

¹⁵ UNODC 2000: Preamble; Experts Meet in Vienna to Address the Trafficking of Persons for the Removal of Organs' [Online], UNODC, available at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2010/egm-vienna-organ-trafficking.html> accessed 21 June, 2025, 'Transnational Organised Crime: The Globalised Illegal Economy' [Online], UNODC, available at www.unodc.org/toc/en/crimes/organized-crime.html Accessed 16 May, 2025.

¹⁶ 'Medicus: Five guilty in Kosovo human organ trade case Kosovo' BBC News available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-22343589?msclkid=79d5790bc25111ecb7c67fd9c5686894> Accessed 17 October 2025. Officially the Republic of Kosovo, is a partially recognised state in Southeast Europe. It lies at the centre of the Balkans, occupying an area of 10,887 km² (4,203 sq mi), with a population of about 1.8 million. Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence from Serbia on 17 February 2008, and has since gained diplomatic recognition as a sovereign state by 97 member states of the United Nations. It is bordered by Serbia to the north and east, North Macedonia to the southeast, Albania to the southwest, and Montenegro to the west. An EU-led court in Kosovo has found five people guilty in connection with a human organ-trafficking ring. The five are accused of carrying out dozens of illegal transplants at the Medicus Clinic in the capital, Pristina. Meanwhile two former government officials also charged in the case have been cleared of involvement. The trade was discovered when a Turkish man collapsed after having one of his kidneys removed at the clinic. The case is being tried by Eulex, the European Union's law and order mission set up in Kosovo to handle sensitive cases. The clinic's director, urologist Lutfi Dervishi was sentenced to eight years in prison for organised crime and human trafficking. His son, Arban, was sentenced to seven years and three months, while three other defendants received between one and three years' imprisonment.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Kiran Kidwai – International Desk, NMTV 'Teenagers of China selling body organs in order to fulfill their likes of consumerism'. Available at <https://nmtv.tv/teenagers-of-china-selling-body-organs-in-order-to-fulfill-their-likes-of-consumerism/?msclkid=a379123ac25511ecab148c5464a1b02e> Accessed April 20, 2022.

¹⁹ David Matas 'Remarks prepared for a parallel and poster presentation to the World Trade Congress, San

revelation in Beijing, a 17 year old high school student sold off one of his kidneys only because he wanted to buy an iPad and an iPhone. The authorities filed a case against five people who are accused on charges of intentional injury for organizing the removal and transplant of the kidney. The defendants include a surgeon, a hospital contractor, and brokers who look for donors online and leased an operating room where the removal of organs can be carried out. China has become one of the countries where illegal trade of body organs is on an alarming rise. About 1.5 million people in China require organ transplant as stated earlier, but only 10,000 transplants are carried out. At such a stage price for body organs are always high and in high demand.²⁰

In African, the tales of organ trafficking abounds. This ranges from trafficking of organs for transplant purposes and trafficking of organs (and other body parts) for ritual purposes. According to Dawit W Giorgis,²¹

This crime against humanity is committed against the poor and the helpless, against those who, through no fault of their own, have been pushed out of their country, lost and confused, who needed compassion, but face murder and mutilation almost routinely. These are innocent Africans seeking freedom and justice, who have trekked across impregnable harsh deserts and environments for months and reached the coast of the Mediterranean only to be confronted by brutal traffickers who give them the choice of their 'pound of flesh' or their lives. In many cases they are not even given these choices, but simply murdered and their organs taken in a well-organized scheme that includes brokers, traffickers, physicians, hospitals, shippers and end users. The slaughtering of innocent young aspiring migrant Ethiopian Christians by ISIS was shocking, but not shocking enough to force the international community to address the brutalization of African migrants particularly in Egypt, Libya and the coasts of Europe. It is shocking indeed that the free world pays little or no attention to these heinous crimes of human trafficking and worse, killing and mutilation of migrants to get their organs. The free world is more concerned about the migration rather than the crimes committed against the migrants.

Border walls and legal barriers are being constructed across Europe, America and the Middle East to prevent migrants particularly those from Africa and some Middle Eastern countries ravaged by war, poverty and injustice, from ever reaching the coasts of Europe and border posts of America. But there are no boundaries for trafficking their organs. Organs of immigrants murdered or mutilated move freely and swiftly across national boundaries to save the lives of the rich in Europe, US and in the Middle East. "Many do not want them within European borders, but they do seem to want their organs."²²

The Global Financial Integrity in 2017²³ reported that transnational crimes are motivated by the incredibly huge amount of money that can be generated from it which range from US\$1.6 trillion and \$2.2 trillion per year. The report went on to present the annual estimated value of 11 crimes identified as follows:

Transnational Crime	Estimated Annual Value (US\$)
Drug trafficking	\$426 billion to \$652 billion
Small Arms & Light-Weapons trafficking	\$1.7 billion to \$3.5 billion
Human trafficking	\$150.2 billion
Organ trafficking	\$840 million to \$1.7 billion
Trafficking in Cultural Property	\$1.2 billion to \$1.6 billion
Counterfeiting	\$923 billion to \$1.13 trillion
Illegal Wildlife Trade	\$5 billion to \$23 billion
IUU Fishing (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated)	\$15.5 billion to \$36.4 billion
Illegal logging	\$52 billion to \$157 billion
Illegal mining	\$12 billion to \$48 billion
Crude Oil Theft	\$5.2 billion to \$11.9 billion
Total	\$1.6 trillion to \$2.2 trillion

For the purpose of this paper, we shall consider the topic in relation to three African countries namely: Egypt, Libya and Nigeria, trusting that the data therefrom can be generalised for the rest of Africa. We shall then proceed to look at the stain or dent that organ trafficking has brought to the African States, the theories of organ trafficking and of course the legal framework across the three selected jurisdictions. Suffices it to say that there appear to be a dearth of statutes directly promulgated against organ trafficking in Africa. However, we shall explore what is available and state where absent. The paper shall conclude with conclusion, findings and recommendations.

2. ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN EGYPT

Around the thousands of migrants waiting to sail to Europe through Egypt²⁴ are those who are stalking them to get their organs

Francisco, California, USA, 29 July, 2014'. Available at <https://endtransplantabuse.org/update-on-numbers-organ-transplants-sources-in-china/?msclkid=8254fe3ec25711ecb0cb223b966cc344> Accessed 1 November 2025.

²⁰ The major concern that is arising in china is that on the fact that the youngsters when have to choose between materialism and their body, they prefer choosing materialism. They admit that selling organs and earning quick money is the easy way out when they have to meet their requirements, which includes paying off large debts, making a payment on a smartphone, paying for the abortion of their girlfriend or when they have to purchase something big which is not affordable by them. This certainly has proved that lust of technology based products and for the desire to stay in front to achieve it the young generations are destroying themselves and their future without even being aware of it.

²¹ 'Organ Trafficking and Migrants from Africa' available at < <https://humantraffickingsearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/187135-Organ-Trafficking-and-Migrants-from-Africa.pdf?msclkid=b8cdef61c25e11eca1c1c775f701084e>> Accessed 18 April 2025

²² Ibid

²³ Channing Mavrellis, March 27, 2017 available at <

²⁴ Egypt is a semi-presidential republic, its GDP is \$ US 286,538 million, which locates the country in the #39 position in the global ranking. According to its GNI, the Global Bank identifies the level of income of this country as lower middle. Its Gini index by 2008 was 30,8 so its inequality level is medium. About the quality of life of the citizens, according to the United Nations Development Program, Egypt have a medium HDI (human development index) of 0.682. The major economic sector of this country is agriculture, especially of basic products for food and fiber manufacturing. The Estructure and Economy of Egypt. Available in: <https://goo.gl/rCLjU8>

on behalf of the sick in Europe, America, and Middle East. Some manage to enter Europe in exchange for their organs, but for some only their organs are allowed to enter while their bodies decay in the deserts of Africa and in the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt and Libya are in the spotlight as the primary countries, which are the transit points for migrants traveling to Europe.

The organ traffickers "operate openly and freely because they feed on the despair of the most vulnerable,"²⁵ with total impunity. Egypt, at a crossroads between the Middle East and North Africa and the Mediterranean, has become a major transit hub for thousands of migrants and refugees seeking to enter Europe. Reports by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicate that one in 10 migrants and refugees arriving in Italy from the North African coast have been trafficked from Egypt, with the remainder traveling from Libya. The crimes that are being committed against these people in Egypt are heinous.

Here are few samples that have been reported: Several mutilated corpses of migrants, mostly from Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, whose organs were brutally torn out of their living bodies, have been found in the deserts of North Africa. Nine Somalis, including a mother and her two young children had their organs removed and their bodies dumped in the sea near Alexandria, the Mediterranean port city in Egypt. Horrific pictures showing the Somali victims with autopsy like scars and blood stains emerged and have been circulating in the social media.

Reports said they were dumped after being lured onto a migrant boat supposedly heading for Italy, but after were led to undisclosed location in Alexandria and locked up for organ removal. Egyptian police have found the bodies of 15 African migrants who appear to have been shot dead in the northern Sinai Peninsula. Officials say most of the victims were Sudanese.²⁶

The international community is now familiar with stories coming from Sinai with Bedouin smugglers trafficking migrants and forcing them to give up their organs with promises to take them to Israel.²⁷ Hamdy Al-Azazy,²⁸ has photos showing corpses with distinctive scars in the abdominal area. All the photos were taken in a morgue in the Egyptian port town of El Arish after the bodies were brought there. Al-Azazy says the organs are taken from refugees while they are still alive. "The organs are not useful if they're dead. They drug them first and remove their organs, then leave them to die and dump them in a deep dry well along with hundreds of bodies." Graphic videos have circulated showing Eritrean and Ethiopians being mutilated to get their organs.²⁹

In 2011, a senior health official in Egypt acknowledged that some 1,500 illegal organ transplants were carried out in the country each year in unlicensed centers³⁰. But he said that 80% of these had been closed since the approval of the human organs law the previous year. However, last year, in Dec 2016, Egyptian authorities arrested 45 people involved in one of the largest organ trafficking networks in the country in a raid.

According to the Egyptian Administrative Control Authority, "this is the largest international network of human organ trafficking", involving more than ten hospitals and private clinics. It included nurses and professors from renowned Egyptian hospitals and universities, as well as buyers and intermediaries, who were detained after it was determined that they belonged to an international organ trafficking network. "The accused who were arrested, exploited the economic situation of some Egyptians and the suffering of some patients and their need for treatment to take large financial sums from them, thus breaking the law,"³¹ the ministry said in a statement. It added that "millions of dollars and gold bullion" were retrieved.³²

According to Sean Columb, "The criminal underworld of organ trafficking in Cairo which he says has the "largest organ bazaars." The picture of organ trading in Egypt extends beyond the criminal underworld, with mainstream hospitals conducting transplants using kidneys procured through backstreet deals.³³

Egyptian News Week Jack Moore reports on 7th day of May, 2016 thus: "Men stand wrapped in blankets after a rescue operation of refugees and migrants at sea of the rescue ship 'Aquarius', on May 24, 2016 in front of the Libyan coast".

A former trafficker has claimed that smugglers are selling migrants for large sums before they have their organs harvested." According to this report, Nuredin Wehabebe Atta, revealed the practice to Italian authorities after his arrest in the country in 2014. Authorities gave him witness protection, which allowed him to come forward with the information. He told investigators that migrants and refugees who can't afford to pay their traffickers are consistently sold for their organs to an Egyptian crime ring for €15,000 to cover their travel costs. He said: "Sometimes the migrant lacks the money to pay for the leg of their journey or for a place in one of the refuge boats. The Egyptians come equipped to remove the organ and transport it in insulated bags." He added that the smugglers also sold the organs of migrants who died at sea on the journey to Italy. Some cash strapped migrants are given an opportunity to sell their organs in exchange for their trafficking transport costs, but the majority are either taken back to Egypt or killed in Italy. The harvested organs are then sold on a lucrative black market to wealthy Europeans and Russians, Wehabebe told prosecutors in Sicily.

As rightly stated by Columb in his study,³⁴ criminal sanctions and existing laws concerning organ trafficking in Egypt (and other African countries) are "inadequate and harmful," pushing the trade further underground, reducing the bargaining position of organ sellers and exposing them to greater exploitation. The solutions to this crime should include addressing the underlying structural and institutional problems that have enabled the flourishing of this underworld business, the ethical and legal issues that exist within the recipient countries and the factors that create the conditions to push people out of their countries and make them vulnerable to such crimes. Organ trafficking is a global phenomenon; it needs commitment and concerted efforts by the international community to curb.

²⁵ Ibid, also available at <<http://www.eal-agenda.com/organ-trafficking-business-european/>> accessed 19 May 2025

²⁶ Available at <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34826469>> Accessed 12 July 2024.

²⁷ Available at edition.cnn.com/2011/11/03/world/meast/pleitgen-sinai-organ-smugglers/index.htm> accessed 22 June, 2025.

²⁸ Head of New Generation Foundation for Human Right Egypt

²⁹ Available at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgGVlbW3zxY>> accessed 12 July 2025.

³⁰ Available at <http://real-agenda.com/organ-trafficking-business-european>>Accessed 12 July2025

³¹ <<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-detains-45-people-involved-organ-trafficking-network-1447623771>> Accessed 19 June 2025

³² Badran, Ibrahim: "Egypt", in: World Health Organization (WHO): Report. Ethics, access and safety in tissue and organ transplantation: Issues of global concern. Madrid, Spain, 6-9 October 2003. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO), 2004: 19.

³³ Sean Columb is a law lecturer at Liverpool University in Britain, who spent weeks in the Egyptian capital

interviewing brokers and donors, mostly from Sudan and wrote the article titled "Excavating the Organ Trade: An Empirical Study of Organ Trading Networks in Cairo, Egypt" British Journal of Criminology Advance Access published August 27, 2016 available at

³⁴ Supra

3. ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN LIBYA

Libya has long been designated as the slave market of the world and biggest Africa's haven for illegal organ trafficking.³⁵ West African migrants are being bought and sold openly in modern-day slave markets in Libya, survivors have told a UN agency helping them return home.³⁶ Trafficked people passing through Libya have previously reported violence, extortion and slave labour. But the new testimony from IOM suggests that the trade in human beings has become so normalized that people are being traded in public.³⁷ "The latest reports of 'slave markets' for migrants can be added to a long list of outrages in Libya," said Mohammed Abdiker.³⁸ "The situation is dire. The more IOM engages inside Libya, the more we learn that it is a vale of tears for all too many migrants. Migrants are being sold in the market as a commodity," he said, "selling human beings is becoming a trend among smugglers as the smuggling networks in Libya are becoming stronger and stronger."

The North African nation is a major exit point for refugees from Africa trying to reach Europe. But since the overthrow of autocratic leader Muammar Gaddafi, the vast, sparsely populated country has slid into violent chaos and migrants with little cash and usually no papers are particularly vulnerable.³⁹ CNN⁴⁰ reported many Africans; especially nationals of Nigeria, Ghana, Somalia, Sudan and West African natives have embarked 'ignorantly' on a scary journey by road to Libya with an ultimate mission to 'enter-Europe',⁴¹ but various challenges lie ahead of them as Libya, having become biggest Africa's haven for illegal organ traffickers, many of Libyan nationals chose to engage fully in this illegal business seen as a fastmoney spinner at the detriment of the lives of these other African migrants.⁴² A gang of human traffickers accepted migrants' organs as payment for smuggling them to Europe in a perilous journey from northern Africa, an Italian police investigation has revealed.⁴³ Upon their arrival on European soil, the gang decided whether to "use them as manpower or organ donors, according to document ordering pretrial detention for five of the defendants."⁴⁴

Directly connected to the Libyan organ trafficking syndrome is the Islamic state in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group which has also been known to use human organs as a way to finance its operations and save the lives of its injured fighters⁴⁵. The Spanish daily El Mundo reported that facing the increased number of wounded members in the Syrian army and popular forces' attacks; the ISIS is selling the body organs of its captives for transplants. According to the report, the ISIS also forces the prisoners in Mosul jails to donate blood and postpones the execution of those sentenced to death to use their blood as much as possible.⁴⁶ The ISIS doesn't merely use the organs of its captives and prisoners' bodies for transplant operations for its members, but it sells them to other countries as a lucrative business⁴⁷.

Currently it is strictly illegal to sell an organ in the US, according to the federal law, any individual convicted of buying or selling human organs faces a five- year imprisonment. If the U.S. legally opens up the market for human organs it will certainly be internationalized and will in most cases favour the wealthy and close out the poor, most probably creating the condition for traffickers to thrive. Nancy Scheper-Hughes⁴⁸, argues that legalizing organ sale might add some protection and regulations, even though it will do very little to minimize the crime. According to her, it is no longer a question of medical ethics; it is international organized crime.⁴⁹

4. ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

While Nigeria can be said to rank low in terms of human organ trafficking compared to countries like Angola, Brazil, Egypt, Libya, China, Ecuador, Canada, Haiti, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan and Georgia etc, it cannot be said to be totally free of the inhuman practice. In the past, some Nigerians have been said to have offered their organs for sale owing to poverty and hardship largely occasioned by bad governance.⁵⁰ In Nigeria and Lake Chad Basin numerous graves have been excavated with bodies and missing organs.⁵¹ One of these ways through which organs are harvested and trafficked in Nigeria is through kidnapping. Trafficked organs are sometimes obtained from murdered kidnapped persons. Also, in rare cases, some foreigners liaise with certified doctors to illegally remove a patient's organ without his notice. In other cases, these organs are harvested by the greedy physician in charge of health institutes and sold in the black market.

In the past years, tens of suspects have been arrested for being in possession of human parts. In Nigeria, it is a myth that human parts can be used to make quick money, some Nigerians therefore, in an attempt to get quick riches, resort to kidnapping for ritual purposes. Also, because human organs sell for millions of naira, they further extract victim's organs and export them abroad. On the 1st day of February, 2022, a suspected ritual killer, Timothy Odeniyi, was arrested by men of the Amotekun Corps in Ondo State, Nigeria. The 35-year-old man confessed to newsmen that he was promised N30m if he could produce and deliver

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Farrell A., Owens C, and McDevitt J, 'New Laws But Few Cases: Understanding the Challenges to the Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking Cases', *Crime, Law and Social Change*, (2014), 61: 139–68.

³⁸ IOM's head of operation and emergencies in Libya

³⁹ Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/10/libya-public-slave-auctions-un-migration> Accessed April 15, 2025.

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ Amnesty International. (3 April 2013). Egypt/Sudan: Refugees and asylumseekers face brutal treatment, kidnapping for ransom, and human trafficking. London, UK: Amnesty International Publications. Retrieved from <http://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR04/001/2013/en/> (accessed 18 January 2025)

⁴² Available at <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-1250714> Accessed 21 September, 2025.

⁴³ Shimazono, Y. 'The State of the International Organ Trade: A Provisional Picture Based on Integration of Available Information', (2007), *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 85: 955–62. Snajdr, E. (2013), 'Beneath the Master Narrative: Human Trafficking, Myths of Sexual Slavery and Ethnographic Realities', *Dialectical Anthropology*, 37: 229–56.

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Available at < <http://en.alalam.ir/news/1869478> > Accessed 20 June, 2025.

⁴⁶ Missing Migrants Project. (2017). Mediterranean Sea. International Organization for Migration (IOM). Retrieved from 192 <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/mediterranean> (accessed 14 January 2017)

⁴⁷ Available at <www.globalresearch.ca/isil-trafficking-body-organs-of-living-people/5511314> accessed April 11, 2025.

⁴⁸ who co-founded Organs Watch

⁴⁹ Available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mirah-riben/how-to-best-increase-life_b_9006248.html accessed 20 September, 2025.

⁵⁰ Precious Oka, 'Human organ trading/trafficking in Nigeria' available at <[Human organ trading/trafficking in Nigeria - Naijadazz](#)> accessed 20 September, 2025.

⁵¹ Bob Coigi available at <[Illegal organ trafficking in Africa | FairPlanet](#)>

human parts to Lagos. He revealed that the human parts were to be delivered to one of his bosses living in Lagos. Timothy confessed that he went to burial grounds to harvest the body parts from corpses buried claiming that he did not murder anyone.⁵²

In the case of Jennifer Anthony; a 20-year-old Moses Oko was apprehended by the police for allegedly killing her for ritual purposes. Jennifer, who was a student of the University of Jos, was found lifeless at a hotel in Jos, along Zaria Road, on New Year's Day. Some of her body parts were also missing. Moses was arrested in Benue State after he fled from Jos.

Worthy of mention is another case involving a 32-year-old Afeez Olalere, who is a suspected cyber fraudster. Afeez confessed to killing his younger brother for money ritual purposes. He was arrested during a stop and search operation along Itamaga, Ikorodu road in Lagos State by operatives of the Lagos State Police Command. Afeez confessed during interrogation that his mother encouraged him to kill his younger brother after a herbalist she took him to had told him to sacrifice one life which must be his sibling. He had planned with his mother to poison his 21-year-old brother to death. They harvested the required body parts and took his remains to the mortuary. The list of ritual killings in Nigeria and other African countries is endless.

The intent of the discussion in this direction is to show that when it comes to Nigeria, organ trafficking is not limited to the ones illegally harvested for the purpose of transplant, but transcends to killing, harvesting and trafficking of organs for ritual or get rich quick purposes.

5. THEORIES OF ORGAN TRAFICKING

5.1. The Conflict Theory

Conflict theory emerged in the late 19th century from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.⁵³ Conflict theory explores power structures and power disparities—that is, how power differentials affect social inequality and encourage organ trafficking. Conflict theory operates on the premise that humans are self-interested and competitive by being forced into conflict over scarce resources and wealth.⁵⁴ Within conflict theory, wealthier classes are able to maintain power over lower-income and ethnic minority groups by allowing oppressed groups to believe that the advancement of another oppressed group will be to their detriment; therefore oppressed groups assist in the oppression of each other in the hopes that they will be the ones to advance.

From this perspective, social order exists through coercion of the vulnerable, oppressed and less powerful groups by the ruling and more powerful classes. The attendant implication of this and its application to organ trafficking is that most of the victims of organ trafficking are weak, vulnerable and powerless. Many times, they are helpless in the hands of the traffickers of the organs. We have stated in this paper how the organs of refugees are torn out of their bodies while they are still alive and thereafter, left to die and their bodies disposed. Several governments including that of Egypt, China and many more have at one time or the other, been accused of partaking in organ trafficking against its own citizens and trafficked nationals of other countries.

5.2. Patient Survival Theory

Under this theory, the major motivation of organ harvesters and traffickers, is the survival of a loved one or patient who desperately needs organ transplant. Here, patients who need organ transfer to live and have been on the waiting list for a long period of time, not wanting to die waiting, go underworld or patronize the trafficked organs' market either directly or through family members and the traffickers will in turn illegally harvest organs for sale to such patients.⁵⁵ As stated earlier in this paper, ISIS has been known to have forcefully harvested the organs and blood of their victims and either sold or used them to save their injured or dying fighters while leaving the victims of such forceful and inhuman organ harvesting to die in pain and rigor. A case that readily comes to mind here is the case of Senator Ike Ekweremadu, a Nigerian senator. Ike Ekweremadu, who is a former deputy president of the Nigerian senate, his wife, Beatrice, and one Dr. Obinna Obeta were tried and found guilty in the United Kingdom in March in the first conviction under the Modern Slavery Act of the country for luring a young man from Nigeria to the UK with the intention harvesting his kidney and transplanting same to Ekweremadu's daughter Sonia.⁵⁶

5.3. Rational Choice Theory

The theory essentially states that criminals, like traffickers, choose to commit crimes. They aim to obtain the maximum rewards possible, while avoiding any legal consequences. Transnational crimes including organ trafficking are the most lucrative illegal business on earth. Transnational crimes are motivated by the incredibly huge amount of money they can generate which range from US\$1.6 trillion and \$2.2 trillion per year—for the crimes identified by Global Financial Integrity 2017 report⁵⁷. These crimes finance terrorism and corruption across the globe. Under this theory, the motivation for organ trafficking is the financial benefits.

As pointed out above, trafficking in human organs ranks very high on the list of international crimes⁵⁸ with high monetary value and it continues to rise with each passing day as long as there are needs for organs.⁵⁹ Since most of the so called organ donors are poor and vulnerable, they are paid poorly for their harvested organs which are sold to rich beneficiaries at very high prices.⁶⁰ Many times, the victims medical qualifications for donation of their organs is not taken into consideration by the harvesters and

⁵² Daily Trust Newspaper of Wednesday February 9, 2022 available at <[Four Ritual Killing Cases That Shocked Nigerians In 2022 | Dailytrust](#)>. Accessed 23 October, 2025

⁵³ Lutya, T.M. & Lanier, M. Chapter 27: 'An integrated theoretical framework to describe human trafficking of young women and girls for involuntary prostitution'. In J. Maddok (Ed.). *Public Health – Social and Behavioral Health*. (555-570). DOI: 10.5772/37064

⁵⁴ Clawson, H. Small, K., Go, E., & Myles, B. (2003). *Needs Assessment for Service Providers and Trafficking Victims*. Caliber Associates, Inc. available at <<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/202469.pdf>>

⁵⁵ Crewe, S.E., & Guyot-Diangone, J. (2016). Stigmatization and labeling. *Encyclopedia of Social Work*. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780199975839.013.1043

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ See the case of Rex and Obinna Obeta, Ike and Beatrice Ekweremadu, Case Law Database, <https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/en/case-law-doc/traffickingpersonscrimetype/gbr/2023/rex_and_obinna_obeta_ike_and_beatrice_ekweremadu_.html> accessed 04 August, 2025

⁵⁸ Ibid

⁵⁹ United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto" United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2004,

⁶⁰ Available at <[Theories - SAGE HUMAN TRAFFICKING \(weebly.com\)](#)> accessed 22 October, 2025

⁶¹ Available at <<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>> accessed 14 October, 2025

traffickers, rather, what they focus on, is the financial gains accruable to them (the traffickers).⁶¹

6. THE STAIN OF ORGAN TRAFFICKING ON AFRICAN STATES

Africa has continued to be a lucrative market for international buyers of human organs due to bad governance, weak laws and enforcement, porous borders and poverty. Stories abound of agents to international buyers in pitching tents in conflict zones of Africa targeting vulnerable people with offers. In fact, it is argued that where there are poor people, there are organ brokers. The trafficking of organs within and from African states has had dire consequences on the people, government and economy of the various states. We shall consider some of them.

1. Organ trafficking destroys local economies: One grave consequence of organ trafficking in Africa is that it continues to wreak havoc on the local economies. Monies that ordinarily should be properly channeled and made beneficial to local economies are diverted to trafficking of organs which is done secretly and most times, undetected. This crime accounts for the never ending backward movement of the African states economically.
2. Organ trafficking undermines international and domestic laws: There are laws made by various states across the world to curb and stop the wild fire of human and organ trafficking yet, trafficking of organs is going on unabated. This transnational crime undermines both local and international laws on trafficking on persons and organs. The way the cartels operate coupled with their connivance with government agencies, doctors, nurses and other professionals including law enforcement agencies, circumvent the law thereby letting them commit the crimes undetected. In fact, even where arrests were reported, very few were prosecuted successfully.
3. Organ trafficking has also led to the distabilisation of nations and threatened the safety and security of people across Africa and the world at large. The crime has increasingly made it difficult for tourist and other migrants to move freely across states for fear of being killed and their organs harvested and trafficked. The sad story of Africans attempting cross over to Europe and other countries through illegal routes attests to this.
4. Organ trafficking is a violation of the human rights across the globe: The human rights framework for trafficking of humans and organs draw upon international human rights standards, which have been normalized in a number of international treaties, covenants and protocols since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted⁶². Other relevant international treaties include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) that proclaimed "no-one shall be held in slavery and servitude;" as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), which recognizes the right to work as well as to just and favorable working conditions. Since December 2000, the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime serves as a legal framework for nation-state legislation across the globe. The Protocol is intended to ensure that trafficked persons are not treated as criminals but as victims, and therefore entitled to specific human rights protections. These include temporary resident status and temporary shelter, medical and psychological services, access to justice as well as compensation or restitution.

7. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AGAINST ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA AND ACROSS THE WORLD

There are treaties and other instruments particularly relevant to trafficking of persons and organs across the world. Some of them are: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000 (Trafficking Protocol); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000; United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966; Council of Europe, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005 (European Trafficking Convention).

However, for our discussion, we shall consider laws from the three selected countries on the subject matter.

8. LEGAL REGIME ON ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN EGYPT

There has been no solid legal foundation supervising organ transplantation since its first practice in Egypt in 1976.⁶³ Laws prohibited organ donation from the deceased donors, meaning that each organ transplantation practice relies upon one living seller-donor.⁶⁴ In 2009, the Transplant of Human Organs and Tissues Act was promulgated and it criminalized buying and selling of human organs and allows only donation upon death in Egypt.⁶⁵ The Act covers the transplantation of human organs and tissues⁶⁶ and defines death as the complete separation from human life⁶⁷. It allows organ transplantation as ultimate medical treatment between living family members up to the fourth degree⁶⁸. It permits post mortem organ donation between Egyptian citizens,⁶⁹ demands the fair allocation of organs and stipulates the establishment of a committee for organ transplantation.⁷⁰ The

⁶¹ 'Transnational Crime and the Developing World, Global Financial Integrity', March 2017, 'Trafficking in human organs: Council of Europe convention enters into force,' Council of Europe, January 3, 2018, <<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cdpc/-/trafficking-in-human-organs-council-of-europe-convention-enters-into-force>>, http://www.gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Transnational_Crime-final.pdf Accessed 25 October, 2025.

⁶² in 1948

⁶³ Columb, Seá 'Disqualified Bodies: A Sociolegal Analysis of the Organ Trade in Cairo, Egypt'. (2013) *Law & Society Review*. 51 (2): 282–312.

⁶⁴ Paris, Wayne; Nour, Bakr Organ Transplantation in Egypt". *Progress in Transplantation*. 20 (3): 274–278. doi:10.1177/152692481002000312

⁶⁵ 'Organ Transplant Legislation: From Trade to Donation'. *Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights*. Accessed 20 October, 2025

⁶⁶ Section 1

⁶⁷ Section 2

⁶⁸ Sections 3 & 4

⁶⁹ Section 5

⁷⁰ Section 6-8

Act defines the minimum requirements for organ transplantation centres. Etc.⁷¹ However, the law had minimal effects in eliminating the organ black market. The profit that actors get through this lucrative business trumps the mild penalties assigned to legal violation. In 2018, the Egyptian government reviewed the law with more serious penalties, hoping to reduce organ trafficking within the country, but the criminal sanctions only pushed trafficking underground, and no transplant professional have been deterred.⁷² One of the defects of the Act is that it failed to protect organ harvest or trafficking survivors.

Although the legal framework is established, victims of organ trafficking in Egypt do not receive protection and treatment.⁷³ Asylum seekers surviving from organ trafficking in Sinai are put into detention centers in Egypt without access to legal consultation. They are obligated to pay by whatever way for their flights back to their home country, failing which they will be labelled as traitors and detained for longer times. Survivors who are offered the opportunity to stay in Egypt still linger at the fringe of the society, with very low labor standards within the informal economy, no legal aid, and hardly any financial sustainability or access to social services. The focus of the Act on only sanction has further deepened organ trafficking in the country. Despite the provisions of this Act, authors believe that Egypt is yet to properly curb organ trafficking.⁷⁴

9. LEGAL REGIME ON ORGAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA

9.1. Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015

This Act was first enacted in July, 2003, and was amended in December 2005. However, in 2015, the 2005 Act was repealed and a new Act enacted. The Act applies to all parts of Nigeria. This new Act has 83 sections and 2 schedules. The Act created the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Person (NAPTIP).⁷⁵ This agency took over the functions of the special taskforce in human trafficking and was vested with the responsibilities to enforce laws against traffic in persons, and to take charge and coordinate the rehabilitation and counseling of trafficked persons; and other related matters.⁷⁶

The functions⁷⁷ and powers of the agency are created under sections 5 and 6 of the Act respectively. The Agency is under the supervision of the Attorney General of the Federation (hereafter referred to as AGF), who has the power to make guidelines and directives to the Agency which the Agency shall abide by.⁷⁸ The AGF also recommends to the President persons to be appointed as members of the Board of the Agency and the Director-General of the Agency, who must be personnel in the directorate cadre of the public service of the Federation or its equivalent in the law enforcement service. The AGF has the power to make rules and regulations for the forfeiture of assets under the Act to the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund, and for the administration of such funds.

Section 13(1) generally prohibited all forms of human trafficking in Nigeria. Any person who recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives another person using fraud, force, abuse of authority, deception, payment or receiving of money for the exploitation of that person commits an offence is liable on conviction to a term of not less than 2 years imprisonment and a fine not less than N250,000. It appears that this offence is limited to the trafficking of persons within Nigeria. In the case of *AGF vs. Affiong Okon*⁷⁹ the abused procured 7 children for street begging and forced labour. He pleaded guilty to the charge was convicted and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. Section 13(4) makes culpable any person whether within or outside Nigeria that does or omit to do; threaten; induce by fraud; act by proxy; aide or abet, assist or facilitate the commission of any offence under Act, and such a person upon conviction shall be liable to a term of imprisonment for not less than 5 years and a fine not less than N1million. Section 13(5) makes the consent of the victim of trafficking as defined under Act immaterial in the determination of the guilt of a suspected offender under the Act.

Nigeria seems not to have a specific law on organ trafficking as the NAPTIP has been at the helm of organ trafficking issues in Nigeria. NAPTIP has raised an alarm over the increase in organ harvesting in Nigeria. 'Organ harvesting' – as it is being called euphemistically – goes hand-in-hand with murder which is often treated as ritualistic murder by police officers.

10. CONCLUSION

This paper concludes that organ trafficking as an international economic crime is on the rise in many African states and will continue to grow until the governments become intentional about curbing it.

11. FINDINGS

The paper found that organ trafficking is real and on the increase in many African states. It further found that this criminal trade is highly lucrative thereby making the traffickers take very high risks to ensure its success. The practice is shrouded in secrecy

⁷¹ See section 10-13

⁷² New legislation for organ transplants in Egypt | IMTJ. www.imtj.com. Accessed April 30, 2025.

⁷³ van Reisen and Rijken. 'Sinai Trafficking: Origin and Definition of a New Form of Human Trafficking'. *Social Inclusion*. 3: 122 – via COGITATIO.

⁷⁴ Nils Fischer, 'Egypt's Draft Law on Organ Transplantation' available at [file:///C:/Users/Agada%20JSC/Downloads/2009-JIBL-6-4-EG-OT%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Agada%20JSC/Downloads/2009-JIBL-6-4-EG-OT%20(2).pdf) Accessed 20 October, 2025.

⁷⁵ Section 2

⁷⁶ Section 10. See also Kigbu S.K and Hassan Y.B. (2015) „Legal Framework for Combating Human Trafficking In Nigeria: The Journey So Far“ Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization. Vol.38. 2015. Pp 205-220.

⁷⁷ 8 (a) enforce and administer the provisions of this Act ; (b) co-ordinate and enforce all other Laws on Trafficking in Persons and related offences; (c) adopt effective measures for the prevention and eradication of trafficking in persons and related offences ; (d) establish co-ordinated preventive, regulatory and investigatory machinery geared towards the eradication of trafficking in persons ; (e) investigate all cases of trafficking in persons including forced labour, child labour, forced prostitution, exploitative labour and other forms of exploitation, slavery and slavery-like activities, bonded labour, removal of organs, illegal smuggling of migrants, sale and purchase of persons ; (f) encourage and facilitate the availability and participation of persons who voluntarily, consent to assist in investigations or proceedings relating to trafficking in persons and related offences ; (g) enhance the effectiveness of Law Enforcement agents and other partners in the suppression of trafficking in persons ; (h) create public enlightenment and awareness through seminars, workshops, publications, radio and television programmes and other means aimed at educating the public on the dangers of trafficking in persons ; (i) establish and maintain communications to facilitate rapid exchange of information concerning offences under this Act; (j)

⁷⁸ Sections 75 & 76

⁷⁹ Unreported. Charge No. 0/26c/2005 (High Court of Anambra State, Onitsha judicial Division). Judgment was delivered on 13/02/2006).

making it difficult for the traffickers to be detected and prosecuted.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Governments across Africa should be intentional about their fight against corruption which has been seen to be at the root of organ trafficking across Africa and the world at large.
2. In addition to current efforts to fight this crime, this paper calls on governments of the African states, experts, the private sector, and civil society groups to seek to address the global shadow financial system by promoting greater financial transparency. This will help cutoff the money flows and the profits enjoyed by the traffickers, and it will increase the ability to bring these criminals to justice and defeat their illicit transnational networks.
3. African States should share more information between agencies and departments on the illicit markets and actors that exist within a country's borders.
4. Financial and trade transactions involving individuals and corporations in "secrecy jurisdictions" should be flagged as high-risk and should be made to require extra documentation.
5. Since the physicians performing the transplant can easily be identified owing to the fact that most of the times the surgery can only be done in private or public hospitals or with mobile surgeons and surgery equipment which can be traced. Law enforcement agencies should increase their intelligence gathering channeled towards arresting these criminals.
6. There is the need for governments of African states to show willingness to enforce the available laws on organ trafficking. It has been discovered that while legal prohibitions may exist, governments often make little effort to stop the trade.
7. There is need for a Human Rights-Based approach to the fight against organ trafficking; it should seek to identify and redress the discriminatory practices and unequal distribution of power that underlie trafficking. Human rights should be the priority as the anti-trafficking community facilitates the vital shift from the working paradigm of criminal sanction and immigration response to human rights promotion.
8. Empowerment, self-representation and participation of those affected by trafficking should be made fundamental principles by African states in their fight against organ trafficking.

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