
THE VICTIMOLOGIST

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From the Editor's Desk

Managing Editor

Michael O'Connell

As per usual this edition of *The Victimologist* is full of exciting victimological news. Rather than a synopsis on each article, I have dedicated my editorial to Cissé Souleymane Mahamane, who died of malaria in August last year. Cissé, a Nigerian journalist was an African voice in the fight for human rights, in Niger and on the continent. He was a member of the World Society of Victimology W.S.V. (SIV) and was involved with a group of Africans, including the President of the Mahfoud-Boucebci Foundation of Algeria, in establishing the "African Victimology" project, fully conscious that the Black continent, suffering under many conflicts, has a desperate need for urgent services dedicated to the survivors of tragedies. Alas, illness did not allow him the time to achieve all of his aims.

On hearing of his death, I wrote to a mutual friend, Martine Becker and asked her to pass on my sympathy to Cissé's wife, Zainan, and their 4 year old son, Jean Pierre.

This edition of *The Victimologist* ends with an extract from my letter in honour of a man who want so much for us all to live in harmony and at peace with one another. 🌍

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: UN Adopts New Guidelines to Protect Children

Vienna, 23-27 May 2005

Irvin Waller

The Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime were adopted by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its fourteenth session, held in Vienna from 23-27 May 2005.

They were finalised by an intergovernmental group of experts convened by the UN Secretary General, which met in Vienna earlier that year thanks to the financial support of the Government of Canada. The Guidelines set forth a framework to ensure that children who have been victims of crimes or witnesses to crime are treated in a fair, dignified and secure manner when they are involved in a judicial process.

The UN Guidelines are based on the Guidelines on Justice for Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime finalised in 2003 by the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR). Few modifications were made to the IBCR text before its adoption by the UN and both the resolution and the text of the UN Guidelines "Recognis[e] the efforts of the International Bureau for Children's Rights in laying the groundwork for the development of guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime".

In addition to adopting the Guidelines, the UN resolution - originally presented by Canada and co-sponsored by more than 50 Member States - invites Member States to draw on them when drafting legislation regarding children.

For more information, contact:
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Editor's Desk - A tribute to Cissé Souleymane Mahamane
United Nations adopts new guidelines to protect children
- 2 United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – Up-date
Middle East and Africa Consultation – Violence against Children
- 3 Adoption of World Summit Outcome Document on the Future of the United Nations
The Work of Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Streets in Diverting Children and Young People from Street Prostitution and Victimization in Middlesbrough, UK
Reminder - WSV Symposium
- 6 Obituary - Cissé Souleymane Mahamane



UN Congress on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice

Up-date

The last edition of *The Victimologist*, August-September 2005, included reports from members from the World Society of Victimology (WSV) who attended the recent 11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. These members. Readers will recall that those members made a number of statements for the WSV on Victim Rights and other victim related matters to the Congress; in addition, the WSV held a press conference on these statements, which included:

- Statement on United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Professor Irvin Waller)
- Statement on Effective Measures to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (Professor Paul Friday)
- Statement on Corruption (Maria de la Luz Lima Mahido)
- Statement on Making Standards Work: Fifty Year of Standard-Setting in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Marlene Young)
- WSV's Statement on International Co-operation against Terrorism and other Criminal Activities (Associate Professor Sam Garkawe)
- On the Need for a (United Nations) Victim's Convention (Associate Professor Sam Garkawe)

These statements, as well as the WSV's press conference, are available in video format. Alas, the statements are on video as part of a larger address, therefore viewers will have to view the entire recording. The press conference, however, is a discrete video.

On Co-operation against Terrorism:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/conferences/bangkok2005/plen-21pm-eng.rm>

On Corruption:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/conferences/bangkok2005/com2-20am-eng.rm>

On Making Standards Work:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/conferences/bangkok2005/com1-20pm-eng.rm>

On Transnational and Organized Crime:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/conferences/bangkok2005/plen-19pm-eng.rm>

Press Conference:

<http://webcast.un.org/ramgen/conferences/bangkok2005/pc>

Middle East and Africa Regional Consultation – Violence against Children

childrenandviolence@dominus.co.uk

The Middle East and North Africa Regional Consultation for the United Nations' Study on Violence against Children closed on 29 June 2005 with an address by Mrs. Mubarak, the First Lady of Egypt. Mrs. Mubarak said that despite efforts, many children around the world are deprived of many rights, and that violence against children is an aggression on our society as a whole.

"We are confident in the future generation, and must stop any kind of violence against children, ... This problem should be treated in full transparency and honesty" she continued.


She emphasised that it was essential to review the full extent of violence, in all its forms, and that this process should start with the family, as that was the most important environment for the child.

Child delegates presented their final recommendations, and highlighted that although all governments had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, many children still suffer from all forms of violence. "We the children, declare violence, whether physical violence, psychological violence, or neglect, a serious problem in this region, and we regret that most laws to protect us are not implemented" a child delegate from Sudan said.

Ambassador Moushira Khattab read out the final declaration for the consultation, prepared and agreed by delegates, including government representatives and NGOs. The Cairo Declaration includes among other things a commitment by all to adopt national plans of action, measuring indicators, obstacles, within a timeframe and with specific allocated budget. This plan would be based on the four principles of the CRC.

The declaration includes a commitment to ban corporal punishment explicitly, in all institutional frameworks and settings, in schools, and in armed conflict, however stops short of banning corporal punishment in the home. The declaration comments on the issue of people using religion as a justification for using violence, "we take pride in our customs, but some practices are penetrating our faith" it stated. More specifically, it says that violence in family should be eliminated and that it should be the focal point of the struggle.

For more information on the consultation, including relevant resources and summaries, go to:

<http://www.crin.org/violence/regions/region.asp?regionID=1004> 

**Adoption of the World Summit
Outcome Document by the
General Assembly (A/RES/60/1)**

16 September, 2005

The outcome document of the World Summit on the future of the United Nations makes reference to victims of terrorism and human trafficking. It also refers to the conventions on transnational crime, corruption and more resources for UNODC and drugs, as well as mentions violence against women.

Overall, however, it is an unimaginative document in terms of what victims of crime, abuse of power and terrorism are facing because of the lack of real proposals and investment in prevention that works or assistance to victims or principles of justice for victim.

Yet another reason for fighting to get a Convention for Victims of crime, abuse of power and terrorism.

REMINDER



**WSV's 12th International
Symposium on
Victimology:
Expanding the Mission
Understanding and
serving victim needs
across the world.**

**Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida,
USA — 20-25 August, 2006**

<http://www.ce.ucf.edu/asp/wsv/>

The Work of SECOS (Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Streets) in Diverting Children and Young People from Street Prostitution and Victimization in Middlesbrough, UK

An Interview with SECOS's Manager, Wendy Shepherd

Georgios A. Antonopoulos

On 17th February 2005 Georgios Antonopoulos interviewed Wendy Shepherd, the SECOS project manager. Georgios was taken by Wendy's enthusiasm and zeal for the project as she spoke about her experiences in working with children and young people, who are exploited and victimised through prostitution.

What is SECOS about?

SECOS developed in 1999 as a result of research² in Middlesbrough on the extent of children being abused through prostitution. Middlesbrough had at that time a significant street prostitution problem both with children and adults. The research showed the extent of children and young people, who were being abused through prostitution — 70 young people up to the age of 21 and 35 young people up to the age of 17. Since, SECOS began it has become evident that the exploitation of children and young people often happens off the streets.

What does SECOS do to achieve its purpose? In other words what are the elements of the project?

We have an outreach facility that goes out four nights a week. We have a bus that goes around and accesses children, young people and adult women, who are involved in prostitution or might be at risk of involvement in prostitution, and provide sexual health information, assistance to people who may be feeling socially isolated etc. So we have traditionally been out in areas, which are known to be hot spots of prostitution. We have been doing that for the last four years and developed strategies to assist children, young people and women to report serious crime, serious sexual assault and violence to the police through the use of what we call an 'Abusive Adult Form', and ensuring that information is taken – even if it is anonymously – of what has happened. We also provide case work and day service provision so that young people and women, who are victims of exploitation or have been forced into prostitution, can exit and recover from this lifestyle. SECOS firstly builds a relationship with the children and young people so that these persons have somebody they can trust after a long time.

We look at homelessness and target services to make sure that housing is available. If there is a sexual health need, then we fast track sexual health service to ensure that they are cared for. We can also fast track drug service if there is a drug problem or an alcohol problem. If it is a coercive relationship we try to address the power and control issue in that relationship. And it takes a lot of time before people actually decide to leave their abusive partner or their pimp.

We have got to work with the restructuring of their thinking and their behaviour as well as the building of their self-esteem. We basically try to provide things that have been missing in their life.

Do you have a specific approach when you deal with children and young people, who have been involved in prostitution?

Our approach is very much focused on child protection. These children and young people are victims of exploitation. We look holistically at all the areas in which they need support in order for them to exit prostitution and recover, and we attempt to make the children's or young people's life a lot more stable and a lot safer.

How many people have been working on the project?

We now have 17 staff, 9 full time staff, which includes our administration, some of the outreach service and the casework provision.

Are there any volunteers involved?

We have had over 20 volunteers, who have been trained to understand issues of exploitation, sexual violence and rape, how to do outreach work effectively, how to report cases, and how to liaise with the police about serious offences. Volunteers are essential to our outreach services. They have, for instance, been out without our paid workers on an evening on the bus. They can also do additional training on matters such as the power-abuse cycle, utilising the issues of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and how that can be compounded through exploitation and prostitution.

Where does SECOS get the funding from?

Funding comes from several sources. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) in Middlesborough; Barnardo's; the Primary Care Trust For Sexual Health; and the Middlesborough Council. We have also been given some Single Regeneration Budget funding that has been helpful.

Are sexual health and drugs important issues for the children and young people involved in prostitution?

Drugs are a huge issue with heroin and crack cocaine use among some of the children and young people. Some women are identified as having HIV/AIDS. As well, we know that there are sexually transmitted diseases — Chlamydia and genital warts, and also more serious infections such as gonorrhoea and syphilis.

Do you find that children born to sex workers become involved in prostitution?

Not in every case. In fact children being born when someone is involved in prostitution is often an exit incentive and strategy for that woman. She does not want her children to

be involved in that kind of lifestyle and she does the most she can to protect her child. In some cases, yes. Prostitution has been in Middlesborough since 1854 and you will have got families that are on the third generation of young people, who are at risk of prostitution because it has been historically there within the family. That is getting less so because we are doing much more intervention. But in some isolated cases you can see a pattern has emerged within the family. We have also seen children and young people being out with their parents when they were involved in the sex industry. We know babies have been put at the back of cars whilst the mother has performed activity at the front.

Who would you say is the person, who usually exploits children and young people when it comes to prostitution?

I think that at the end of the day any person, who is out looking for sex, does not seem to care whether the victim is over 18 or under 18. In some cases they ask for a girl 16 years old. There are different types of offenders. We have those who have a particular interest in children — paedophiles. We have some who are just interested in young people and do not necessarily see themselves as paedophiles. And there are those who are not necessarily looking for an under-16 year old but certainly looking for someone who is young.

Do you encounter young people and women who say they like being a prostitute?

The violence either physical or sexual that these children, young people and adult women are subject to happens on a daily basis. Rarely does a day pass that we do not get a report from a child, young person or an adult woman that they have not been attacked either by a 'punter', their pimp or another person involved in prostitution. I have not heard anyone saying they like it.

However, I have heard many women justifying why they do it, and I have heard many women saying that there is no alternative to what they do. But nobody says specifically 'I enjoy what I do'. Very often it is a case of surviving. They can't stand what they do, and they feel shameful of what they have allowed themselves to get. But I specifically hear about street prostitution, which I think is very different to off-street prostitution, brothels or via escort agencies, and lap dancing.

Is there any feedback received about the project?

We receive very positive feedback, including some suggestions about our outreach bus. For example, the young people wanted us to go in their territory before they would come into our drop-in centre and say 'look, we don't want the drug service, we can go to a drug centre about that. We want our social care to be taken care of'. And, we have found that that is the best way to engage these people and bring them into the service, and then to devise their recovery and exit strategies. So the feedback is mainly positive, which, it seems to me, is because we are non-judgemental. We work at the prostituted young people's own pace. We do, however, see prostitution as an abusive activity, so we try to help these people have an abuse-free life.

Do you get any feedback from the parents, any other organisations and individuals concerned?

We have had some very positive feedback from parents who we include as we work with each young person. We have developed a very good partnership with the police in terms of identifying perpetrators and attempting to get these perpetrators arrested. It is very important to work together. In some cases it has not been possible to work with parents because the children and young people were dissociated with them. The project is young person-led but when possible we try to integrate the parents. In some cases the parents have been there right from the beginning and sought out help along with the young person. We have tried to work together in improving the life chances of that young person.

What have been the results of SECOS so far?

We have seen over 220 young people since we began, and at least 50 of these young people have exited prostitution, completely abuse-free; back into education; have been in university; have returned to their family or in suitable accommodation, and some of them have their own children or a non-abusive partnership. They have made a big decision to change their lifestyle. As I said before there were 35 young people under the age of 17 involved in street prostitution in 2000. You will not find a young person under the age of 18 involved in street prostitution now in Middlesborough. There are still children involved in prostitution but they are not on the street. Last year we had 24 new faces, but we are now in a situation where we can find these youths and do something to help them. Young prostitutes are not as visible as they were, especially on the streets. On the one hand, this is a good thing but, on the other hand, it could also mean that the abuse is more hidden. Nevertheless, there has been a general reduction which I attribute, among other things, to the strong preventative message as we reach out to these victims.

Is SECOS working in partnership with other organizations?

Yes, we work very closely with the Drug Service and the Sexual Health Services. We have qualified counsellors within our project, who understand the issues of counselling. We also work with the local tertiary college on education within schools on prevention, and with the social services in terms of child protection. And, of course, with the police in terms of protection and also information sharing about perpetrators, reporting and detecting crime.

Are there any other initiatives in relation to prostitution that operate alongside SECOS in Middlesbrough?

There is another project for adults, which has a sexual clinic attached to it and a drop-in centre. There is potential for future work particularly with adults that could involve the Drug Service. These are among the emerging things that SECOS has identified for the adult population. For children and young people, at the moment, we have covered most areas of immediate need and we will continue to do so.

What is your vision for SECOS in the future?

Our vision is to do a lot more prevention and educative work with vulnerable groups in schools, youth centres and in communities. We still feel that children and young people need to know more about exploitative relationships and as well they need to learn strategies to avoid, even stop, getting

in such relationships. There is a need for those who are already being exploited to be given help and access to services, and given opportunities to access education, which might require different ways to those available to more fortunate children and young people.

I would also like to see some supported accommodation for those involved in prostitution. These places could be helpful refuges.

The SECOS vision is not to exist too long. If we do our work well, children and young people will not be exploited and will instead be better 'self-protected' so we will not be needed. We hope that other agencies will continue to help us to protect those who need to be protect.

Do you have any final remarks?

I think we have to show young people, who are involved in prostitution that there are alternatives. Then we have to look at why they have not seen these alternatives: what has happened in their lives that these alternatives are not available or evident to them?

We need to see the children and young people involved in prostitution as a child protection issue. It should not be an aggressive policing problem when those involved are under-18 years old. For example, I disagree with young people being subjected to punitive measures such as ASBOs³. (I even doubt the merits of aggressively policing prostitution when those involved are over-18 years old but that is another debate for another day.) A law enforcement approach to child-prostitution or young people prostituting themselves hasn't worked. It hasn't stop them selling sex. We need instead a robust social policy that sets boundaries, provides protection and offers relevant and attractive alternatives to encourage people to leave prostitution. 🇺🇰

Endnotes:

- 1 Department of Sociology & Social Policy, University of Durham, UK.
2. Shepherd, W., Scott, L. & Warwick, J. (1999) *Naming the Game: Children Abused Through Prostitution*, (Looking Ahead SECOS Report) Barnardos, Middlesborough
3. Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are orders made by the Magistrates Courts, which were introduced in Britain under section 1 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These orders were first made in 1999. They can be made against anyone over the age of 10 and last for a minimum of 2 years. See Home Office (2003) *A Guide to Anti-social Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts*, Home Office, London, UK.

Quotes for Victimologists

*Keep alive the light of justice,
And much that men (sic) say in blame will
pass you by. (Euripides)*

*Rigid justice is the greatest injustice.
(Thomas Fuller)*

(Continued from p.1)

Obituary Cissé Souleymane Mahamane

“When I arrived in Stellenbosch, South Africa, the university was closed and no-one greeted me. I met a professor who was kind and arranged a room for me for one night. The next day I was moved to a dormitory building that was the men’s quarters. About one week later, after a day in class, I returned to the dormitory and found a black-African man speaking a non-English language. I introduced myself by writing my name on a piece of paper and for some time that night I wrote and spoke and he spoke - in a mix of English and French. He told me many things including that he was a member of Journalists Without Borders.

I knew immediately that he was a wonderful and lovely person.

The next day we were moved to the students’ quarters where I met others, including Fatima (Algiers), Mostefa (Algeria), Sanja (Serbia), Vesna (Serbia) and Thierno (Guinea).

Cissé, or Souleymane as I had come to know him, and I continued to talk, despite not always knowing what each was saying. We ate together several times, when Thierno would translate and the conversation would get livelier. Over the days, we learned to laugh, although I did not always understand what he had said.

I remember that the day he gave his oral paper to the victimology symposium, he told me that he was fearful that no one would come. Most of us from the students’ quarters went. He gave his paper twice: in French and in English. It was one of the few times that I understood everything he said, and it truly saddened me. He did not let truth suffer.

In spite of the tragedies that surrounded him, he seemed to appreciate that every day was a gift. His smile was welcome when the day seemed dreary.

For that week - a moment in one’s life - Souleymane reminded me that one of the greatest dangers for humankind is the destruction of those values that make human relations wholesome and the peaceful union of all persons worthwhile and sisters from violence and injustice.

Alas, he has not lived to see the spirit of reconciliation touch all humankind - but in my heart I can still feel his desire to rescue husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers

Kingsley said, “Do noble things, not dream them, all day.” Now it is for others to do noble things so Souleymane’s legacy can grow. 🌍

The Victimologist

<http://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/>

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In the **NEXT EDITION** of *The Victimologist*:

- Dr Keun-Jae Chung reports on the New movement in crime victim support in Korea — the development of the Victim Support Centre.
- Setsuko Richardson outlines the beginnings of Victimology in Japan.
- Commonwealth Law Officers endorse a Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime.
- Tilburg launches research institute for Victimology — Three top Dutch Victimology researchers join forces in the new Tilburg research institute INTERVICT.

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