



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 27, 2011

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U.S. Government Releases 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report

Today, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the release of the U.S. Government's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, which included the first ever ratings for Curacao and Aruba. The Netherlands Antilles was rated in 2009 and 2010. As Secretary Clinton said, "Modern slavery – be it bonded labor, involuntary servitude, or sexual slavery – is a crime and cannot be tolerated in any culture, community, or country ... [It] is an affront to our values and our commitment to human rights."

In this new report, Curacao was ranked Tier Two Watchlist, because it does not fully comply with the minimum standards to combat human trafficking. However, Curacao is making significant efforts to come into compliance with those standards, including legislation which would criminalize human trafficking.

For 2011, Aruba was ranked Tier Two. Although Aruba has criminalized human trafficking, no cases have yet been prosecuted. Aruba also needs to improve screening and formalize victim protection policies.

The U.S. Consulate and the U.S. Government stand ready to assist both the Governments of Curacao and Aruba in their efforts to combat human trafficking.

Each TIP Report narrative contains specific recommendations for governments to consider implementing over the coming year. Full copies of the 2011 reports on Aruba and Curacao are attached and can also be found at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm>.

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