



Communiqué

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de presse

14-16 rue Rainitovo, Antsahavola, Antananarivo 101 – Madagascar - Tel.: 261 20 22 212 57

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On Thursday, September 25, United States Ambassador Neils Marquardt and the Malagasy Secrétaire d'Etat chargé de la Sécurité Intérieure Désiré Rasolofomanana, marked the conclusion of a five-month training program to increase the Malagasy government's capabilities in fighting trafficking in persons. Over 60 participants from Madagascar's law enforcement bodies have undergone in-depth training on technologically advanced methods of criminal analysis, combined with training in legislation and investigative skills that represent a crucial step forward in the ongoing struggle to eliminate trafficking and exploitation in Madagascar. Recognizing the importance of this work, the United States is donating three desktop computers, a powerful server, and related hardware and software to assist in the work of the newly-established Criminal Analysis Center that will be the backbone of future efforts in this field.

Ambassador Marquardt took this opportunity to congratulate the government of Madagascar on its exemplary work in this field thus far, which was recognized this June in the U.S. Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, in which Madagascar was categorized in the highest tier of countries around the world for its commitment to fighting trafficking. He confirmed the United States' commitment to further cooperation with Madagascar on this front, and encouraged the Ministry of Justice, the Police, and the Gendarme to continue their outstanding cooperation as they spread these methods and technology beyond the capital.

The program's participants included 10 analysts who underwent a six-week program, focusing on the detection and analysis of criminal networks using database technology. Around 50 additional magistrates, police officers, and gendarme participated in five two-week trainings, both here in the capital and in Fort Dauphin and Nosy Be, which covered investigative techniques specific to trafficking in persons. The database, at the new Criminal Analysis Center, will permit further centralization and analysis of such information on a national level, making the process more reliable and efficient, and enabling the government to more accurately track case statistics.

Financed by the U.S. Department of Justice through the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), this program has brought together the Ministry of Justice, the Police, and the Gendarme in a joint effort to address the complex types of criminal activity that characterize human trafficking. Human trafficking is a global problem with millions of victims around the world each year; it deprives victims of their human rights, it is a global health risk, and it fuels the growth of organized crime. Madagascar's commitment to fighting this international crime is evident in the Madagascar Action Plan, and in the passage of last year's comprehensive anti-trafficking law.