



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL  
JOHN McHUGH, NEW YORK  
CHAIRMAN**

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Statement of Chairman John M. McHugh**

*Joint Hearing on Global Human Rights and International Operations: Human Trafficking*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – I am pleased this afternoon for the Military Personnel Subcommittee to join with our colleagues of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations to hear testimony on the Department of Defense’s efforts to implement its zero-tolerance policy for human trafficking.

In December 2002, President Bush issued a National Security Presidential Directive which established a zero-tolerance policy for United States Government employees and contractor personnel representing the United States overseas who engage in trafficking in persons. Subsequently, the Department of Defense issued policy directives that make it clear that human trafficking will not be facilitated in any way by members of the military, by Department of Defense civilian employees or by the Department’s contract personnel.

Further, the directives clearly state the Department’s opposition to prostitution and outline specific objectives of its efforts to combat trafficking. I strongly commend the Department of Defense for seizing the momentum set by the President and I am encouraged by the aggressive approach the Department has taken to combat trafficking. At the same time I believe there is more work to be done and this has been communicated to the Department by report language included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007.

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Today's hearing will focus on:

- The implementation by the Department of Defense and the individual military services of the guidance given by Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and Secretary Rumsfeld regarding trafficking in persons.
- The investigation and prosecution of crimes of human trafficking by the military services.
- The DOD response to human trafficking violations by contractors and subcontractors in Iraq.
- The coordination between the DOD and the State Department to ensure that we are doing everything we can to combat human trafficking.

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