Summit on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism

Introduction

The issue of organ trafficking has been a concern of the World Health Organization (WHO) for three decades, expressed initially in 1987, but reaffirmed by the adoption of a World Health Assembly Resolution (WHA63.22) on 21 May 2010. In that Resolution, the WHO Member States indicated their determination that the growing *"utility of human cell, tissue and organ transplantation for a wide range of conditions in low-resource as well as high resource countries*" be firmly grounded in the *"principles of human dignity and solidarity which condemn the buying of human body parts for transplantation and the exploitation of the poorest and most vulnerable populations and the human trafficking that result from such practices*." Organ trafficking violates the principles of justice, equity and respect for human dignity as it entails not only the sale of organs, but also because it has become a form of slavery that exploits bonded laborers, migrants and refugees fleeing the genocide in their countries, executed prisoners, minors – the destitute and the excluded.

Aware of this tragedy, Pope Francis made the eradication of this new form of slavery one of the main goals of his Pontificate. The following information was presented to Pope Francis regarding organ trafficking in September, 2014:

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