

Bulgaria: 10,000 women trafficked annually

by UPI

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Bulgaria's head of state said a weak judicial system, organized crime and poverty have added to an annual trafficking of some 10,000 women out of the country. Addressing a conference in Sofia discussing ways to contain women trafficking, Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said the government should invest more money and efforts to stop the rising number of women being smuggled to other countries, the Sofia News Agency reported Friday. Parvanov said Bulgaria had carried out some reforms of the judicial system aimed at making it harder for women smugglers and he suggested the government should form a registry of women trafficking victims. Nadezhda Mihaylova, a former Bulgarian foreign minister, was the host for the conference. About 800,000 women are forced annually in prostitution slavery rings worldwide, bringing to organizers an estimated \$11.3 billion to \$17 billion, SNA said.

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