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RELEASE
NEWS

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

US EMBASSY CONFERENCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Baku, April 8, 2004

The US Embassy is co-sponsoring "Say No to Modern - Day Slavery" a two-day conference on International Cooperation in Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP). The April 7-8 event at the Hyatt Regency Guba Ballroom is organized by the US Embassy in Azerbaijan in cooperation with the Azerbaijan Presidential Apparat and OSCE.

The goal of the conference is to increase awareness and understanding of TIP and potential solutions to the problem, and to start a cross-sector dialogue about combating TIP -- in particular about how all the above groups fit into the implementation of the Azerbaijan National Action Plan to combat trafficking. "Trafficking in persons is one of the most serious problems of our century, and we must all direct our efforts to combating it," said Reno Harnish.

Participants at the conference includes police, border officials, prosecutors, representatives of other Government of Azerbaijan (GOAJ) bodies such as President's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cabinet of Ministers, local NGO's, diplomatic missions, international organizations such as Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Council of Europe (COE), United Nations (UN), International Rescue Committee (IRC) and media.