



**Press Release**  
For Immediate release

## **U.S. Embassy Trains State Officials on Identifying TIP Victims**

MEXICO CITY, January 13, 2015 - The U.S. Embassy, along with the Colectivo Contra la Trata de Personas, the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District (CDHDF), and the Urban Justice Center's Sex Workers Project co-sponsored a first-of-its-kind forum on human trafficking victims on January 13-14 at the CDHDF headquarters. Ambassador Anthony Wayne participated in the opening ceremony and held a separate meeting with Perla Gomez, head of Mexico City's Human Rights Commission. She also participated in the opening of the forum.

The forum is focused on techniques of victim identification and participants included investigators, prosecutors, and civil society from the DF, Mexico State, Chiapas, and Tlaxcala. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Ambassador Wayne said, "Your mission over the next two days is to learn to identify the victims of this horrible crime and to ensure they are provided the necessary resources to begin their healing process. As specialized investigators and prosecutors, you play a key role in stamping out human trafficking, and ensuring justice for its victims will be the most rewarding, albeit difficult, thing you do in your careers." CDHDF President Perla Gomez thanked the Embassy for its collaboration on the forum, and noted her expectation that it would contribute to the analysis of public policy and the improvement of human rights in the Federal District.

Trafficking in persons is a crime estimated to victimize approximately 27 million men, women, and children, but officials are only able to identify roughly 40,000 victims of trafficking a year. The Embassy hopes this event will help government officials and civil society identify victims in order to ensure they receive the proper resources and attention.

The forum is part of the Embassy's \$6.5 million anti-TIP activities under the Merida Initiative. To find out more about the Embassy's trafficking in persons activities, please visit <http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/democracy.html>.

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