The Child Begging Mafia in India

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Mumbai

- World’s most populated city
- Commercial & entertainment center of India
- Major port
- 20 million residents
- At least 9 million live in slums and shantytowns
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Gangs & Begging

- Children kidnapped or lured
- Estimated 300,000 child beggars in India
- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh recently ordered an investigation into the child beggar mafia operating in Mumbai
- Existence of this human trafficking activity has received very little attention from the Indian government
Slumdog Millionaire
Mutilation of Children

- Injured children make the most money
- Recent incident of five children being drugged in Mumbai and taken to a hospital in Nagpur where a doctor was paid to amputate various limbs.
- Indian Medical Association probe after videotape of three doctors willing to amputate for the equivalent of $200.
- “The lowest of the low.”
“Beggars Don’t Scream”

- Cooperative investigation between CNN-IBN and DIG in 2006.
- Exposed a network of doctors across northern India working in cooperation with Indian mafia members on a regular basis.
- Doctors exposed went into hiding and have not been legally pursued.
Amputee Beggar in Mumbai

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Continuing Disappearances

- Indian police statistics put child disappearances at 44,000 per year, with 25% of them being recovered.
- Activist organizations put the numbers at closer to one million.
- Very common to see child begging in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, New Delhi and Orissa.
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Further Research

- Specific Indian Mafia networks
- Trafficking of Indian children to other countries
- Other instances of forced mutilation of beggar children in other regions of the world.
- Closer look at what NGO’s and Indian government are doing to address this issue.
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