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During Confirmation Hearing, Senators Should Press Amato to Increase State Department Efforts to Dismantle the Business of Human Trafficking

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Washington, D.C. — Human Rights First urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to use tomorrow's confirmation of Susan Coppedge Amato for the post of Director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking (J/TIP) to raise key concerns about gaps that remain in the effort to dismantle the business of human trafficking. Specifically, the organization encouraged the committee to question Amato on how she will address the ambiguity and waning credibility of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, how she plans to press corporations to aggressively protect their global supply chains from slave labor, and on how she will address the recent drop in the global number of human trafficking convictions.

"Tomorrow's confirmation hearing is a key opportunity to raise concerns over how the United States is addressing the horrific human rights problem of modern slavery, which is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world," said Human Rights First's Annick Febrey. "We urge the Senators to press Amato on how she will advance U.S. leadership to dismantle the business of trafficking by securing more convictions and ridding U.S. supply chains of forced labor."

Susan Coppedge Amato is U.S. Attorney for the District of Northern Georgia who was nominated by President Obama to lead J/TIP, which has been without a permanent director for nearly ten months. In this role, Amato would oversee the annual release of the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, which ranks each country according to the progress it has made in efforts to combat modern slavery.

Human Rights First urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to raise the following issues with Amato during tomorrow's hearing:

- **Impunity for labor traffickers.** Of the estimated 20.9 million victims worldwide, the ILO estimates that 68% are trapped in labor trafficking. Yet, only 5% of the convictions

reported worldwide last year were labor cases. What will J/TIP do to increase resources so that more labor trafficking cases will be identified, investigated, and prosecuted?

- **Labor trafficking in U.S. business supply chains.** As corporations increasingly expand their operations in the global marketplace, how can J/TIP incentivize companies to protect their supply chains from forced labor?
- **Dropping number of convictions.** Worldwide, convictions of human traffickers dropped 23% last year. How can J/TIP leverage its diplomatic power to increase the number of convictions over the coming year?
- **Perceived politicization of the TIP Report.** Awarding allies with favorable TIP report rankings without evidence that they have made significant progress to combat human trafficking sends a strong message to foreign governments that U.S. political interests are more important than applying pressure to end modern slavery. Given the widely held perception that several countries were undeservedly upgraded in this year's report, what will be done to rebuild the credibility of the report?