

The SHERLOC Newsletter is pleased to share with you our recent efforts to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols](#).

Spotlight

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When it comes to the response to human trafficking in Argentina, there is a clear before and after. The line is drawn by the case of a victim, referred to here as MAV who disappeared when she was 23 years old, but has never been found.

In April 2002, as MAV walked along a street in her hometown in Tucumán province, she was forced into a car and moved around different towns in Argentina until she was taken to La Rioja province where she was the victim of sexual exploitation in a number of brothels.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The case became a watershed moment in Argentinian law after MAV's mother relentlessly pursued justice for her daughter.

At the time MAV went missing, in early April 2002, human trafficking was not criminalized in Argentina. However, in 2008, MAV's mother's efforts to find her daughter became a symbol of the fight against trafficking in persons and led to the offence of human trafficking being written into Argentina's legal framework.

It took another four years for the case to go to trial. In total, MAV's mother spent ten years gathering evidence: she went undercover as a prostitute, she endured death threats. But in December 2012, after a three-month trial with over 130 witnesses, the judges found all the defendants not guilty. In April 2014, a re-trial saw ten defendants convicted of kidnapping and exploitation in relation to MAV's disappearance.

MAV remains missing, but her case has done a huge amount to raise awareness of human trafficking and to help increase the likelihood of prosecutions in future cases.

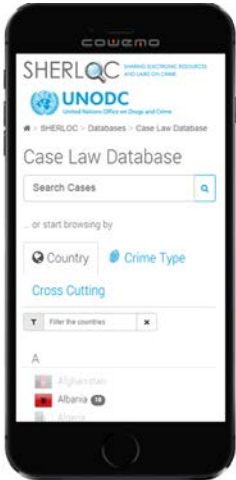
The details of this case can be found on the [UNODC Case Law Database](#), a resource for practitioners and interested parties working in all countries, given that most, like Argentina, have experienced relatively recent developments in human trafficking law. The cases in the database can be used as examples of how practitioners can, for example, challenge common misperceptions, overcome common evidential obstacles, interpret and apply different elements of human trafficking law and identify what the features of a successful prosecution might look like.

Marcelo Colombo, head of the Specialized Office for Investigation of Kidnapping and Trafficking in Persons' cases (UFASE) in Argentina, has used the [UNODC Case Law Database](#) while working on cases in order to get information about how specific but difficult legal terms related to human trafficking are interpreted in other countries. He also continues to use it to find information on what types of investigation strategies have led to successful convictions.

The [UNODC Case Law Database](#) allows cases like MAV's help practitioners in countries across the world to both prevent and prosecute human trafficking. As the Database grows to include more cases from more countries, it will only become more important in the fight against human trafficking.



What's New on SHERLOC?



The SHERLOC team is proud to unveil its new look! This new look is innovative for one major reason: the portal now has an adaptable view for mobile technology. This means that when viewing SHERLOC from a mobile device, be it a tablet or smart phone, the screen will automatically adjust for easy reading and navigation to give the user optimal viewing.

This is key because more and more people across the world are accessing websites from mobile phones and tablets. SHERLOC is planning to unveil many more changes in the course of the year.

Meet a Contributor!

Véronique Bergeron is our featured contributor this issue. After graduating from the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris III, Véronique crossed the Channel to take up a teaching post in London. She then went on to work in a translation agency and as an in-house translator in a software company. After relocating to Melbourne, Australia, she gained full NAATI (National Australian Accreditation for Translators and Interpreters) as Professional English- French Translator/Interpreter.



Véronique first got involved with the United Nations through translation projects for the High Commission of Human Rights. Keen to further her contribution to the UN, she started contributing to the SHERLOC Portal late last year and has already produced several translations of legislative documents for the SHERLOC Database of Legislation.

SHERLOC is always looking for contributors who support us in collecting and summarizing legislation, case law and bibliographic data. Contact us at sherloc@unodc.org



Upcoming Events



9 February – Special High Level Event: "In Stronger Partnership and Coordination to Stop Human Trafficking: Eradicating Modern-Day Slavery through Sustainable Development" in New York

16 February - Launch of ICAT paper on "Providing Effective Remedies for Victims of Trafficking in persons"

11 – 12 April - 16th High-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, organised by AECT, OSCE

18 – 19 May – Working Group on Firearms, 4th Session

17 – 21 October – Conference of the parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 8th Session

17 – 19 October – Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance, 9th Session

19 – 21 October – Working Group on International Cooperation, 7th Session

For further information, please contact:

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Conference Support Section
Organized Crime and Illicit
Trafficking Branch/Division for
Treaty Affairs

