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Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia

Abstract

One of the wealthiest countries in the Middle East, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also one of the largest exporters of oil, and as such, one of the most influential in the region. Despite this, more than 50 per cent of the work force (nearly 6 million people) in the Saudi Arabia are migrant workers (FIDH, 2003, 3). They contribute billions of dollars each year to their home countries through remittances. With such a large population hailing from outside the Kingdom, it would seem that transnational migrants would have a larger voice in the rights and freedoms they are granted within the country. This is, however, not the case in Saudi Arabia, where non-Saudis are treated as second-class citizens and often face abuse and empty promises from their employers. The situation proves too dire for many migrant workers who enter the country. Women are particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment and at risk for human trafficking. It is important to examine the causes of such a large transnational migration to Saudi Arabia, the risk that migrant workers face, and what policies have helped, or in many situations hindered, the rights of migrant workers in this Middle Eastern country.

Keywords

Human rights, Saudi Arabia, Migration, Poverty, Forced labor, Human trafficking

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Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia

By Sarah Jessup

Introduction

One of the wealthiest countries in the Middle East, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is also one of the largest exporters of oil, and as such, one of the most influential in the region. Despite this, more than 50 per cent of the work force (nearly 6 million people) in the Saudi Arabia are migrant workers (FIDH, 2003, 3). They contribute billions of dollars each year to their home countries through remittances. With such a large population hailing from outside the Kingdom, it would seem that transnational migrants would have a larger voice in the rights and freedoms they are granted within the country. This is, however, not the case in Saudi Arabia, where non-Saudis are treated as second-class citizens and often face abuse and empty promises from their employers. The situation proves too dire for many migrant workers who enter the country. Women are particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment and at risk for human trafficking. It is important to examine the causes of such a large transnational migration to Saudi Arabia, the risk that migrant workers face, and what policies have helped, or in many situations hindered, the rights of migrant workers in this Middle Eastern country.

Why Migrate?

Migrant workers often come from countries rife with poverty, where remittances offer hope not only to worker's families, but also to the economy of their native country. It was estimated by the World Bank that in 2003, more than \$116 billion, not including transfers sent through informal channels, was sent home by way of remittances from migrant workers to labor-sending countries (Haas, 2005, 1276). The sense of relative deprivation in the form of global inequality of development and job opportunity is frequently the leading cause of such migration (Haas, 2005, 1271). For people from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka, who send the largest number of migrants each year to Saudi Arabia, the chance to seek opportunity elsewhere proves to be a major lure to migrate. This is particularly true for women, who represent a disproportionate number of migrant workers in the Saudi Arabia and provide a large source of income for their families in their home countries.

The desire to work in Saudi Arabia lies in its large, established migrant communities, as well as the sponsorship system, which makes gaining employment in the country fairly easy. Like many Gulf States, the sponsorship system operates through workers coming to the Kingdom by the invitation of a prospective employer. Residency becomes subject through a contract with one's employer, who can be an "enterprise, an individual or even the State, when it concerns a post in the public sector (e.g. a doctor or nurse)" (FIDH, 3). The ease of the sponsorship process makes Saudi Arabia an ideal location for migrant work. However, few realize that while it facilitates ease in coming to Saudi Arabia, it offers little protection to workers once they arrive, and worse, makes it increasingly difficult to leave.

Dangers of the System

Known as the *kafala* (Burke and Echagüe, 2009, 20), the Saudi sponsorship system often results in gross human rights abuses. The system is highly criticized by organizations like Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International, and offers little legal protection for migrant workers. Furthermore, it becomes difficult to leave once a worker arrives. The contract becomes a legally binding obligation that Saudi law frequently protects, regardless of the abuses committed by an employer against an individual. Complaints of abuse to authorities are rarely investigated and workers risk arbitrary arrest and incarceration if they attempt to leave their employers. As a result of this system, workers' rights are at the discretion of their employer, who holds their passport, and therefore, their freedom of movement.

Risks and Types of Abuse

Although it is undeniable that many migrant workers within Saudi Arabia return to their home countries with little to no complaints, there are several who tell a drastically different story. Though slavery was abolished in 1962 by King Faisal (Brown, et al., 2004, 1), exploitative labor practices persist; many migrant workers live in slave-like conditions with no food or wages. Passport confiscation is the most common way in which employers restrict a worker's freedom of movement. Without a passport to leave, workers become completely at the mercy of their employer. Once their freedom of movement is restricted, migrant workers face from forced labor and enslavement, to sexual and physical abuse. Such practices have become commonplace within the system and are tolerated by the Saudi government. For those workers who do not enter the country legally, the abuses can be much worse as an employer has even more power over the employee.

For women, this reality is worse than for their male counterparts; many are raped and sexually assaulted by their Saudi male employers. This abuse has detrimental psychological effects on them. There are at least 1 million women from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Bangladesh currently working the lowest paying jobs in the country (Brown, et al., 2004, 47). They work long hours and are kept as "virtual prisoners in workshops, private homes, and the dormitory-style housing that labor subcontracting companies provided to them," (Brown, et al., 2004, 2).

Conclusion: Hope for Rights of Migrant Workers

As a result of the Saudi government's negligence in caring for foreign nationals, many labor sending countries, including Indonesia and the Philippines, have implemented new measures to try and combat the abuses that their citizens face. HRW noted in a 2008 report that while Filipino domestic migrant workers account for only 10-20 per cent of Philippine nationals in the country, they account for 90 per cent of the complaints brought to the embassy (HRW, 2008, 113). Embassies frequently rent out safe houses and remain open late hours and on weekends, knowing that this is the time when most migrant workers will attempt escape. Although embassies remain compliant in repatriating their nationals once they have confirmed their citizenship, they are helpless

in prosecuting abuses. They face mounting pressure from the Saudi government and risk losing remittances to aid migrant workers who run away.

Positive changes have been made within Saudi Arabia to help migrant workers. In 2009, the Ministry of Labor announced that after a 5-year study, it recommends that the government adopt a new system of sponsorship, whereby private recruitment companies will sponsor workers. For Indonesian workers, this is promising. Private recruitment companies in the country have undergone a series of reforms through the government that ensure more stability and protection for nationals living abroad. However, while the move has been a positive one, Saudi Arabia still refuses to acknowledge equal rights for migrant workers. Until judicial reforms take place, little will change in a country that relies on their foreign workforce.

Annotations

Abello, Manolo, and Geoffrey Ducanes. 2009. "The Effect of the Global Economic Crisis on Asian Migrant Workers and Government Responses." United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Available online:
<http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/Abella%20and%20Ducanes%20Economic%20Crisis%20and%20Labour%20Migration%20in%20Asia.pdf>.

Annotation: Published in 2009, this report focuses on the global economic crisis's impact on the outpouring of migrant workers to the Middle East from Southeast Asia. It shows a correlation between the loss of opportunity in Southeast Asia and the rapid increase of migration from such countries since 2003. Although the Middle East has experienced a drop in oil prices, it continues to see strong investment in other areas and thus benefits from having migrant workers performing demanding labor. This report is beneficial for anyone who has some understanding on the migratory patterns from Southeast Asia to the Middle East and wishes to explore this topic further.

Adler, Leonore Loeb and Uwe P.Gielen (eds.). 2003. Migration: Immigration and Emigration in International Perspective. Westport, CT: Praeger.

Annotation: This book, edited by Adler and Gielen, addresses the root causes of global migration, the patterns of migration, and the risks in migrating to another country in order to provide for oneself and one's family. The book offers a substantial overview of migration as a whole before exploring regional migration patterns. When addressing regional issues, it offers assessments of the large wave of Filipino migrants to the Middle East and the socio-economic implications of this type of migration. This book is comprehensive in its coverage of global migration and would serve as a valuable resource for either a beginner in the subject or a person with substantial knowledge on the topic.

Brown, Widney and Joe Saunders (eds.). 2004. *Bad Dreams: Exploitation of Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia*. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available online: <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/11999/section/1>.

Annotation: This report, produced by Human Rights Watch, focuses on migrant workers from around the world living in Saudi Arabia. It highlights the multiple migrant communities that exist, the guest worker program/foreign sponsor program in Saudi Arabia, and the vulnerabilities and risks that the foreign population faces in Saudi Arabia. It discusses the lack of care and available resources for migrant workers within the country and what can be done to remedy these issues. It cites firsthand accounts, reports, and legal statutes to illustrate the claims that the authors are trying to make. This report offers a detailed look for any reader into the lives of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia.

Burke, Edward, and Ana Echagüe. 2009. *Strong Foundations? The Imperative for Reform in Saudi Arabia*. Madrid, Spain: Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE).

Annotation: This report details the current human rights situation and legal framework for reform within the Saudi kingdom. While the report looks at the overarching themes within human rights (or lack thereof) in Saudi Arabia, it also briefly summarizes the second-class citizen status of legal migrant workers and the abuses they face. It reviews the legal statutes that allow for such abuses to occur and what reforms are necessary to offer protections to migrant workers in the country. With the majority of the labor force in Saudi Arabia comprised of migrant workers, they are after ones who face the most abuses. A comprehensive overview of human rights in Saudi Arabia, this report is valuable in understanding the legal framework for human rights in the country.

Chaudhry, Kiren Aziz. 1989. "The Price of Wealth: Business and State in Labor Remittance and Oil Economies." *International Organization* 43(1): 44.

Annotation: This article focuses on the remittances that come from being a labor exporter to the Middle East. The author argues that the inflow of capital to labor-exporters from remittances constitutes the most dramatic transnational capital movement in modern times. This article, though slightly outdated, holds relevance to today's migrant workers as little has changed in terms of the human rights situation and the "push" factors that drive them to the oil-rich Gulf States. The remittances that they send to their home countries continue to have a large impact on the economies of labor exporters and remains an important issue in the migrant worker world. However, the article points out that no matter how important the remittances, they come at great personal cost to the laborers.

Cholewinski, Ryszard. 1997. *Migrant Workers in International Human Rights Law: Their Protection in Countries of Employment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: Ryszard Cholewinski's book offers an insightful glimpse into the world of migrant workers and their legal protections under international laws. While slightly outdated, the legal framework that gives migrant workers rights in their country of employment, as well as their general plight, has changed very little in the last decade or so. Although this book does not specifically examine migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, it has a practical application to this paper as it focuses on the migrant system as a whole and provides the reader with insight into the legality of such work and the issues that affect the lives of the thousands of people that migrate for employment opportunities in other countries.

Federation Internationale des Liges des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH) and the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR). 2003. "Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia." Available online: <http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/sa0103a.pdf>.

Annotation: This report, produced by the FIDH in conjunction with the Egyptian Organisation on Human Rights, highlights the abuses that the more than 6 million migrant workers face while working in Saudi Arabia. It discusses specific violations according to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and its subsequent covenants. It illustrates how the legal framework supports said abuses while ignoring the rights of the individual. It offers up condemnation of the Saudi Foreign Sponsor program and the way it enables such issues to arise. It mostly cites legal documents and requires a reader who has advanced knowledge of the migrant worker situation in the region.

Gee, John. 2008. "Gradual Steps Forward for Migrant Workers in the Middle East." *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* 27.9: 40-41.

Annotation: This brief article by John Gee provides an overview of the changes in the legal framework for migrant workers in the Middle East. It highlights the changes that largely focus on increased rights for migrant workers within the region, and places specific emphasis on the various types of work that migrant workers do in the Middle East. It also emphasizes why those entering the region need to read and understand their rights within their situation as migrant workers. The article takes personal stories from migrant workers to highlight why the changes were necessary to protect their rights in the Middle East. Some background knowledge is required in order to understand the issues raised in this article.

Gills, Dong-Sook S. and Nicola Piper, (eds). 2002. *Women and Work in Globalising Asia*. London: Routledge.

Annotation: In this book, Gills and Piper explore the changing face of the work force and family providers in Asia. Particular emphasis is placed on women who become migrant workers from places such as Indonesia and the Philippines, where they go, the type of work they engage in, and the unique risks they face as women migrants in the Middle East. Particularly useful in this book is its understanding of gender issues in Asia and how that has affected migrant patterns

and issues such as human trafficking and bonded labor. This is a useful resource for anyone wanting to better understand the socio-economic status of women in Asia and the Middle East, and the issues and conditions women migrant workers face.

Haas, Hein De. 2005. "International Migration, Remittances and Development: Myths and Facts." *Third World Quarterly* 26 (8): 15.

Annotation: This article focuses on the impact of international migration and remittances on labor exporting countries. The author argues that while remittances greatly influence socio-economic development, there are various policies and restrictions that prevent such practices from realizing their full potential. The author proposes that enhancing "circular migration" policies can allow remittances to realize their full potential. Although not explicitly about Saudi Arabia and migrant workers, the article is relevant because of the overarching theme of migrant work and remittance impact on labor-exporting countries.

Hardill, Irene. 2002. Gender, Migration and the Dual Career Household. London: Routledge.

Annotation: In this book, Irene Hardill focuses on global gender issues and their influence on migration and family life. While this book does not specifically explore the issue of migrant workers once employed in a foreign country, it does address the reasons why so many women are leaving their home countries for places of employment elsewhere in order to survive. It briefly addresses the issues of human rights for women in the Middle East and particularly women migrant workers in places such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. This book would be useful for anyone seeking to delve deeper into the gender issues that surround the migration debate.

Kapiszewski, Andrzej. 2006. "Arab Versus Asian Migrant Workers in GCC Countries." United Nations Population Division- Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available online: http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/EGM_Itmig_Arab/P02_Kapiszewski.pdf.

Annotation: The purpose of this report is to examine the tensions between domestic and migrant workers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Due to the socio-economic situation within the region, GCC countries offer multiple opportunities for migration. However, this is increasingly coming at a cost for the indigenous populations to these countries. This paper focuses on the population dilemmas faced by GCC countries. It pays particular attention to the heterogeneity of the local populations, the demographics of the foreign workforce, and how to localize the workforce. This paper is particularly useful for someone with a degree of understanding behind the causes and impacts of labor migration.

Lagon, Mark P. 2008. "Trafficking and Human Dignity." *Policy Review*, 152: 51-61.

Annotation: This journal article, authored by Mark Lagon, offers a concise picture of human trafficking, the forms it comes in, and the impact on its victim. It briefly touches on migrant workers and the trafficking risk that they face, particularly those in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states. It discusses the efforts of governments to prevent the trafficking of migrant workers but also the lack of rights they are given once they arrive at their destination. With more than 7 million migrant workers, the article states that Saudi Arabia offers little protection to those who are migrant workers within the country and are often subject to “3d” work (dirty, dangerous, and difficult). This article is useful for anyone who better wishes to understand the global labor trade and human trafficking.

Maimbo, Samuel Munzele, and Dilip Ratha. 2005. Remittances: Development Impact and Future Prospects. Washington, D.C.: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank.

Annotation: Published by the World Bank, this book shows the impact that migrant workers have on their home countries via the remittances they send back. This includes the socio-economic impact they have on poverty reduction, as well as the development impact that remittances have. While the book focuses on the real risks that can await migrant workers, it also describes the good things that can come from being a migrant worker. This book also discusses the impact that their region of origin has on the experiences of migrant workers. This book is fairly advanced in its content and would be useful for someone with an understanding of migrant workers and the international political economy.

Massey, Douglas S. and J. Edward Taylor (eds.). 2003. International Migration: Prospects and Policies in a Global Market. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: Douglas Massey and Edward Taylor utilize socio-economic factors to explore how the international political economy has influenced the increased migration of global citizens. They pay particular attention to issues of population growth and poverty, as well as trends in migration to the various parts of the world. They have an acute sense of awareness of the issues that South and Southeast Asian migrant workers face upon entering the Middle East. They also look at the outflow of migrant workers from Asia to the Middle East and Saudi Arabia, and mention the disproportionate number of Indonesian and Filipino migrant workers to this region of the world. This book is incredibly valuable for anyone seeking a better understanding of migratory patterns and the push-pull factors that cause migration.

Naithani, Pranav. 2010. "Challenges Faced by Expatriate Workers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries." *International Journal of Business and Management* 5 (1).

Annotation: Focusing on GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, this article explores the challenges that the large population of migrant workers face in the region. It examines the attempts by GCC countries to nationalize their workforce as the region continues to be filled by

migrant workers. In the article, gender differences within labor division and pay are explored, as well as the weak labor laws and economic problems that migrant workers face upon entering GCC countries. It is a brief overview of the situation in the region, but provides a clear picture of the issues within the region both for GCC countries and for migrant workers themselves.

Ratha, Dilip, and William Shaw. 2007. "South-South Migration and Remittances ". Development Prospect Group, The World Bank. Available online:
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/South-SouthmigrationJan192006.pdf>.

Annotation: Published in conjunction with the World Bank, this paper explores the increasing South-South migration patterns. More than half of all migration now occurs between developing countries, particularly from places like Southeast Asia to the Middle East. Examining socio-economic factors, risks migrant workers faces, remittances and their impact, and the ever growing push-pull factors of migrant work, this paper offers up an extensive overview of why migration between developing nations is increasing through a political-economy lens. It also addresses a human rights component in it, as migration from one developing nation to another often comes with increased risks as human rights are not a priority.

Richards, Alan, and John Waterbury. 2008. A Political Economy of the Middle East, 3 ed. Boulder: Waterview Press.

Annotation: Offering a comprehensive overview of the political economy of the Middle East, the authors of this book attempt to illustrate to the reader the multiple aspects of what makes the economy of the Middle East function. It examines issues such as changing demographics, increased democratization, and natural resource management, as well as the large impact that migrant workers have on the economy. It not only highlights the Middle East as a labor-sending region, but also places a large emphasis on the region as a labor-receiving region. Extremely technical, this book also looks at socio-economic and cultural aspects of the region that can have a negative impact on the lives of those attempting to migrate to the region in search of employment opportunities.

Sassen, Saskia. 2009. "Global Cities and Survival Circuits," in Kevin K. Gaines, Janice A. Radway, Barry Shank, and Penny Von Eschen (eds.), American Studies: An Anthology. Chichester: Blackwell, 2009.

Annotation: This section of this American studies book focuses on immigration, migrant work, and gender. Although the book revolves around issues surrounding the United States, this particular chapter sheds light on migration from the developing world and the disproportionate number of women who migrate for work opportunities. Most specifically, it pays attention to push-pull factors that increase the chances of migration and it further examines the types of risk associated with migration, including sexual and physical abuse, forced labor, and human

trafficking. While it does not mention much about migrant workers in the Middle East, it is useful as a general overview of global migration patterns and issues.

Satterthwaite, Margaret L. 2005. "Crossing Borders, Claiming Rights: Using Human Rights Law to Empower Women Migrant Workers." *Yale Human Rights and Development Law Journal* 8 (1): 1-66.

Annotation: With women making up the majority of migrant workers, particularly to countries in the Middle East, this article explores how international migrant worker laws and human rights law has impacted their lives. Satterthwaite attempts to show the reader how the current Migrant Workers Convention does not adequately cover women, who require a more intersectional approach, whereby international human rights laws in general can work with the Migrant Workers Convention to provide further protections for women. The article is heavy in its content and requires a degree of background knowledge on gender and migratory work.

Shah, Nasra M. 2008. "Recent Labor Immigration Policies in the Oil-Rich Gulf: How Effective Are They Likely to Be?" *International Publications*, 52. Available online: <http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1055&context=intl>.

Annotation: This report by Nasra M. Shah, in conjunction with the ILO, looks at the changes in labor immigration policy in oil-exporting Gulf states. It examines the causes behind the rapid growth in the 1970's and 80's to those states and how changes in policy have attempted to curtail immigration to such countries. Rising unemployment among the indigenous populations of the Gulf States has affected the number of migrant workers allowed into those countries as they attempt to increase the employment rate for their citizens. It provides a different perspective on the debate surrounding labor migration that examines how the populations of labor-receiving states can be negatively impacted by migrant workers.

———. "Restrictive Labour Immigration Policies in the Oil-Rich Gulf: Effectiveness and Implications for Sending Asian Countries." United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Social and Economic Implications of Changing Population Age Structure, Mexico City, August 31-September 2, 2005. United Nations Secretariat – Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available online: http://www.un.org/esa/population/migration/turin/Symposium_Turin_files/P03_Shah.pdf.

Annotation: Examining changes in immigration policy in four of the six oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Countries (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates), this paper explores how the changes have impacted both labor-sending and labor-receiving countries. Rising unemployment, cost-of-living, and increasing populations have all been important factors that have led to more restrictive immigration policies. It also attempts to illustrate the impact of these factors on the socio-economic situations of labor-sending countries.

Silvey, Rachel. 2004. "Transnational Domestication: State Power and Indonesian Migrant Women in Saudi Arabia." *Political Geography* 23(3): 245-264.

Annotation: Rachel Silvey explains how and why Indonesian women become migrant workers in Saudi Arabia in this piece. In the article from *Political Geography*, Silvey initially covers feminist theories of the state and how they relate to international migration, while further linking them with women migrant workers from Indonesia. She then explores the role of the Saudi state and how migrant women encounter the gender roles that they face once they arrive in Saudi Arabia. Silvey also further highlights the risks migrant women face being a woman in the Saudi Kingdom. She highlights that between 300 and 500 women a day seek assistance and escape from abusive employers at the Indonesian embassy. Silvey highlights several sources to back up the claims she makes in her article. This report offers a snapshot of the various issues that not only Indonesian migrant workers, but all migrant workers, face in coming to Saudi Arabia and would be a good introduction to the lives of Indonesian migrant workers.

Stalker, Peter. 2008. "Protecting Migrant Workers: Governance of Labour Migration in Asia and the Pacific." *International Labour Organization*. Available online: <http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1056&context=intl>.

Annotation: This report, produced by the ILO, focuses on source countries of migrant workers and the government regulations that control migration from these countries. It also gives a glimpse at the NGOs that offer protections to migrant workers within their home countries and how they operate in destination countries. Additionally, the report focuses on the socio-economic impact remittances have on source countries and why migrant workers are willing to face serious risk in order to provide these remittances to their families. This report is useful for anyone seeking to learn more about source countries of migrant workers in Asia and the Pacific, as well as their destination countries and the governmental rules and regulations that make migrant work possible.

Sunderland, Judith. 2006. *Swept Under the Rug: Abuse Against Domestic Workers Around the World*. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available online: http://www.hrw.org/campaigns/women/2006/domestic_workers/index.htm.

Annotation: This report, produced by Judith Sunderland and Human Rights Watch, covers the lives of domestic workers within their own countries and the lives of migrant domestic workers. It places particular emphasis on the abuses they face by their employers, from long hours to withheld wages and enslavement. It also offers an analysis of the current legal framework, which has allowed these conditions to exist both internally and internationally. The report uses specific examples from countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia. It also follows the lives of child domestic workers and the lack of education they receive as a result of becoming domestic workers (and migrant domestic workers). This report provides useful information noting the internal and international nature of domestic work.

Tabutin, Dominique, Bruno Schoumaker, Godfrey Rogers, Jonathan Mandelbaum, and Catriona Dutreuilh. 2005. "The Demography of the Arab World and the Middle East from the 1950s to the 2000s. A Survey of Changes and a Statistical Assessment." *Population (English Edition, 2002-)* 60 (5/6): 90.

Annotation: In this article from the English edition of *Population*, the changing face of the Middle East in an increasingly globalized world is examined. The article examines not only the demography of the Middle East, but also North Africa and some places in Eurasia. This article is important because, by using statistics, the influx of migrants to the Middle East in search of more economic security is clearly illustrated. However, while available statistics have been used, the authors readily admit that these statistics cannot account for the number of illegal migrant workers who now live in the region. However, the article is able to highlight the various migrant communities within the Gulf, and pays particular attention to those from South/Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. This article is strong in its methodology as well as its explanation of such statistics. It is valuable in understanding the growing numbers of migrants to the Middle East and provides some solid statistical evidence where applicable.

Taran, Patrick A. 2001. "Human Rights of Migrants: Challenges of the New Decade." *International Migration* 38(6): 7-51.

Annotation: This article focuses on the challenges faced by migrant workers due to increased globalization. The author notes that as globalization has increased, so has the pressure to migrate. The surge in both legal and illegal migration over the past few years is likely to continue. Focusing on ten general trends in migration and employment, the author is able to show the reader the most important issues that plague the migrant community. Taran notes that as a result of all these factors, there has been an increased risk of trafficking of those seeking to migrate, and especially for those that enter a country of employment illegally. Furthermore, the article examines issues such as xenophobia that have contributed to the view in many places, like Saudi Arabia, that migrant workers are second-class citizens. The author provides a very comprehensive overview of migrant workers, human rights, and globalization and where these issues conflate.

Toro-Morn, Maura I. and Marixsa Alicea (eds.). 2004. Migration and Immigration: A Global View. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Annotation: This book deals with a specific set of countries and their migratory habits. While it does not specifically deal with any countries in the Middle East, it does address migratory patterns from the Philippines, one of the largest suppliers of migrant workers to the Middle East and Saudi Arabia. It specifically speaks to the root causes of why so many leave the Philippines in search of work elsewhere, the abuse that many, particularly women, endure, and the risk of human trafficking for slave labor many face. This book serves as a brief overview of world

migratory patterns and utilizes labor, poverty, and migrant statistics to illustrate how and why people enter into such work. It is a basic introduction to human labor and migrant patterns.

Tyner, James A. 2004. Made in the Philippines: Gendered Discourses and the Making of Migrants. New York: Routledge Curzon.

Annotation: Filipino migrant workers make up a very large portion of those in Saudi Arabia and there is a disproportionate number of women employed over men. This book addresses the exodus of women from the Philippines for the Middle East as they seek employment to send remittances back to their families. It further addresses how women become victims of forced migration to the Middle East and what factors influence the decision to engage in the risk of becoming a migrant worker. This book examines the influence of the nation state on such choices, and the lack of resources available for those who choose to become migrant workers. This book would be a valuable resource for those seeking to understand the influences on the lives of Filipino women who choose (or in some cases are forced) to leave in order to provide for themselves and their families.

Varia, Nisha. 2008. *As if I am Not Human: Abuse Against Asian Domestic Workers in Saudi Arabia*. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available online: <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/62143/section/1>.

Annotation: Nisha Varia explores the lives of South and Southeast Asian migrant workers in Saudi Arabia and the abuses they face once they arrive in the country. The report is comprehensive in covering the legal framework for recruitment practices and offers up recommendations to the governments of Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Indonesia to protect their citizens abroad. It further explores the risk of trafficking and enslavement of these migrant workers once they arrive in the Persian Gulf. It particularly focuses on the risks that women face once they enter the country. The author takes both personal and legal accounts of migrant worker conditions, as well as utilizing resources from previous works.