

**“For Sale, the trafficking of Albania’s children”  
Documentary Version, 24:45**

**April, 2002**

AUDIO	PICTURE
<p><b>OPENING MONTAGE</b> <i>note: all audio is heard in original language</i></p>	<p>shots of children in the streetw/subtitles of soundbites</p>
<p>EDLIRA: He would beat me and ask why I wouldn’t work. But when I gave him some money, he didn’t beat me.</p>	
<p>KETA’S SON: They used to say to me, “make more money.” They used to burn me on the legs.</p>	
<p>ELTON: I have seen other things...kids beaten, tortured, tied with cords and chains.</p>	
<p>ANILA: Some were prostitutes. Some were begging.</p>	
<p>EDLIRA: There were many. I can’t count them. There were girls in every town.</p>	
<p><b>Opening title of video</b></p>	<p><b>For Sale the trafficking of Albania’s children</b></p>
<p>RAMAZAN: This is Vjollca, the oldest daughter. The one I have no news about. Vjollca went to Greece, no Italy nine years ago. She’s twenty-four now.</p>	<p>Burkurie and Ramazan show Namik photos</p>
<p>NAMIK: So it’s been nine years, and you’ve had no news about her?</p>	
<p>RAMAZAN: Nothing at all.</p>	
<p>NARRATOR: Namik works for NPF which in Albanian stands for “Help for Children”. Namik and his fellow workers are dedicated to fighting child trafficking in Albania. To accomplish this, they must not only seek out the children themselves, but interact with their families to get at the roots of the problem.</p>	
<p>NAMIK: The parents send the kids to Greece because they see it as a chance to earn money. And this is a contagious disease. Because you see your neighbor, who has sent his kid to Greece and you ask yourself, ‘Why shouldn’t I send</p>	<p>TITLE: Namik Shehaj, NPF Project Coordinator</p>

mine?'	
NARRATOR: Child trafficking from eastern Europe is a problem that has been given coverage in the news lately but most of the stories have been focused on young girls who have been kidnapped for the purposes of prostitution.	Montage of footage with 'tv effect' look
NAMIK: There might be some kidnapping, but then the trafficker gets in contact with the family and negotiates with them. It's really a contract between the traffickers and the families in difficulties.	
NARRATOR: The situation is complex. Children may be taken out of the country anyone from a family member to a seasoned trafficker. They may prefer life outside Albania or they may become entangled in organized crime and unable to escape. At the bottom of it all is Albania's troubled economy.	Children with adults in Albania and alone in the streets
RAMAZAN: We haven't had work since the factory closed. If I had a job, I wouldn't send the kids there. If I had a stable job...	Namik talks with Ramazan and Bukurie in their doorway.
NAMIK: [1:28:00] So, your reason to send the kids there...	
RAMAZAN: It's because I didn't have any money.	
NAMIK: The contracts with the traffickers are very tempting at the beginning and bitter at the end.	
MAJLINDA: I don't enjoy the money I got from sending my daughter away. I just want her back. I've been suffering like this for two years.	
NARRATOR: Albania is the poorest country in Europe: officially unemployment is eighteen percent but, in reality is much higher. Much wealthier nations are just beyond its frontiers – creating a powerful draw for families and their children. Every day, at the border between Albania and Greece, hundreds of people, many of them children, wait for nightfall to steal across.	dramatic images of people living in poverty, images of impoverished streets and homes  UNDP report shows albania as least developed European country
NAMIK: How many times have you gone to Greece? BOY AT BORDER: 5 times. NAMIK: Are there other children on the way? BOY AT BORDER: There are many.	Namik talking to boys and men about to cross the border

<p><u>VARIOUS MEN</u>: There are a lot of children who are crossing here and in other places.          NAMIK: How many children are there in your home altogether?          BOY AT BORDER: 5.          NAMIK: Who is the oldest?          BOY AT BORDER: Me. I’m the oldest.          MAN AT BORDER: The oldest is only 14 years old. It is a pity, it’s a shame, that he has to walk 4, 5 nights to Veroia.          NAMIK: Do you have your parents permission?          BOY AT BORDER: Yes, I have my parents permission.</p>	<p>cut away to walking shots</p>
<p>ELTON: I thought we would walk a couple of hours then we would take a car. When they told me it would take 7 days, I thought if other kids could do it, so could I.</p>	<p>graphic with map showing distance traveled and shots of trip from moving car</p>
<p>MEN AT BORDER: 5 kilometers per hour, 10 hours, 50 - 60 kilometers per night.</p>	
<p>ELTON: We had to cross rivers, the water was up to my neck. It was cold and we had to take our clothes off.</p>	
<p>KETA’S SON: The first time my feet swelled up because we were walking in the snow. It was snowing.</p>	
<p>NATHALIE: We are talking about 3000 to 4000 children coming to Greece at any one time. As for Italy the numbers vary, up to...they say, maybe, 6-10 thousand children would be in Italy. And again they are found in many other places in Western Europe.</p>	<p>shot of waterfront in Greece ends montage          TITLE: Nathalie Heppel, Delegate, Terre des Hommes</p>
<p>NARRATOR: Nathalie works for Terre des Hommes a Swiss organization which supported the creation of NPF. She describes herself as a kind of travelling detective, investigating child trafficking throughout Europe.</p>	<p>Nathalie and Namik walk through Thessaloniki</p>
<p>NATHALIE: In one of those benches over there, there was a very big guy, solid, dark-skinned. And there was this little girl of about six years old with him and she was very fair skinned. And this little girl like this. And she was crying and crying. For me it has been very...very difficult to see this because there was nothing I could really do. So basically what we believe from what our experience, from what we have seen is that this little girl was not working hard enough. And he was giving her a hard time. And this man would always sit around here and he would be</p>	<p>Nathalie walks and talks in a park in Thessaloniki with Namik</p>

checking his 2 or 3 little children.	
NATHALIE: The parents know where the children are going, but they may not always know the situation, the living conditions that their children will be going through once they leave their home town	
ANILA: [5:32:35] I was four years old, too small. I was with my neighbor, he gave my father some money and he took me to Greece. I was scared. A little kid. What could I do? My neighbor gave my father 25,000 leke, so it was like my father sold me.	TITLE: “Anila” Trafficked child  TITLE: 25,000 leke = \$170 US
NARRATOR: Anila is only fifteen, but she has travelled back and forth between Greece and her hometown in Albania more times than she can remember.	
ANILA: If you go to Greece, it is tough. It is not like you’re going to have fun there. Your life is in danger. You can get killed. You can’t imagine the things I saw there.	
NARRATOR: Younger children, under the age of eleven, who have been trafficked, usually wind up working the streets in Greece, Italy, and other Western European countries.	
NATHALIE: A child during his working day, which is a minimum 12 hours could be doing different jobs depending on the time of the day. So during the day they sell balloons for children’s entertainment. And at night they would be going to restaurants, selling flowers or Kleenex to adult populations.	Nathalie walking with Namik in Thessaloniki and talking
NAMIK: The kids start work at eight or nine o’clock in the morning when the shops open and finish at twelve or one o’clock in the morning, when the night clubs close. The same kid works the whole day. It is really sad when a three or four year old girl is selling flowers like an adult.	shots of children working outdoor cafés
NATHALIE: Many children have also told me that it’s better for them to live in the streets than to be back home, because at least they can earn some money and they can eat. But the thing is they don’t go to school. They don’t know how to read, how to write. For many still today, here, it’s often better than if they were living in Albania, in a one room, very cramped, with about 7 other people, sleeping on	Continue shots of children working in Greece, move to shots of children in poor conditions in Albania

the floor barely having enough to eat.	
ANILA: I had not been back to Albania for four months, and my mother, father and everyone were crying on the phone. So I asked, if they had anything to eat. They said that they were dying of hunger. I am not used to that. I am not used to eating just bread and oil, like they were eating. I'm used to having everything. So, I returned to Albania and bought them 10,000 leke of fruit and meat. They ate everything and were happy.	
NARRATOR: The choice for children boils down to this: living in extreme poverty in Albania or risking their lives and health in another country.	
ANILA: I had a friend who suffered a lot because she couldn't make a lot of money. Since she wasn't begging, they took her and made her work as a prostitute, so that she could make money. She was twelve years old. You do these things. Because he tells you to make 30,000 drachma in one day. Can you make that money? No. But if you don't he'll beat you. You cannot do it. Once night time comes, and you haven't made that money, then bad things happen. You will get fucked to make that money.	
NAMIK: All the girls start out begging across the border. But, when they get older and they cannot beg anymore, they turn to prostitution.	
NARRATOR: Gaining the trust of former prostitutes to help reintegrate them into their families and communities is a major challenge.	
ANILA: They wanted to take me to Italy as a prostitute and I told them, "You cannot take me."	Anila folds clothes in her home
NARRATOR: Few want to admit they have been sexually abused.	
ANILA: There is no one who can touch me here in Thessaloniki."	
NARRATOR: Anila is a case in point.	
ANILA: I made 10,000 leke a night in the streets. I knew how to do it without getting fucked.	

NAMIK: I have known this girl for a long time, almost four years now. Considering all the things she has experienced in her lifetime, we have to understand that she has gone through so much and that she didn't describe her life exactly as it was. The truth is that she really has been sexually abused.	Namik talking while picking up trash at summer camp, shots of Anila at camp and elsewhere
NARRATOR: As difficult as it is to help children talk about their experiences after they return, in Greece their handlers make it hard to approach them at all.	
NATHALIE: They are told beware of the social services, people who are there to help them. They are seen as the enemy, as the people that are threatening their existence.	
NARRATOR: In Thessaloniki, Namik must exhibit considerable patience before gaining the trust of any of the children working the cafés.	
ADRIAN: So if I go back to Albania, can I go to school? NAMIK: I'm the kind of person that if you come tomorrow, I'll take you to school tomorrow. We've started really nice programs. We've started teaching vocational courses.	NAMIK speaks to two street children in a café
NAMIK: Well the boy was telling me, 'I move from town to town ahead of the police.' He just arrived from Athens five days ago, because the police were more active there and he came to Thessaloniki because it is quieter.	
NAMIK: What about you Adrian, has anyone ever beaten you? ADRIAN: Sometimes the police, sometimes the Albanians, older Albanians...they slap me, they kick me. Sometimes even the Greeks.	
NARRATOR: Once under the influence of organized crime, it is hard for children to escape. Adrian is too old now to effectively sell trinkets to tourists. He must become a street boss himself or leave.	
NARRATOR: But returning home is not easy either. Often enough, the Albanian Mafia greets them at the border and steals what little money they are bringing back. Or they may be caught and thrown in jail by the Greek Police.	stylized shots of children walking across the border

<p>NATHALIE: The police here I think they see the street children as a nuisance to get rid of because it's not good for tourism. And the attitude is, let's take them off the streets without thinking about the consequences about now what do we do with these children? How can we prevent them from coming back again?</p>	
<p>NARRATOR: Nobody is sure exactly how many Albanian children are currently imprisoned in Greece, partly because many of them speak Greek and avoid being identified as Albanians.</p>	
<p>NATHALIE: I believe for the phenomenon of child trafficking to be addressed properly, the police has to realize what the problem is, and that these children on the streets are actually victims, not criminals.</p>	
	<p><i>transition here</i></p>
<p>NARRATOR: NPF's primary objective is to prevent children from leaving Albania. They know from experience that those most likely to go have already been trafficked. When Edlira was twelve years old, she was taken to Italy by a cousin and sold to a man there who forced her into prostitution.</p>	<p>shots of Edlira in cosmetics class</p>
<p>EDLIRA: What could I do? I was forced. I was ...conquered, had no other choice. They tortured me. They beat me a lot. I cried with every single client I prayed to God: Please take me back to Albania to stay with my parents.</p>	<p>TITLE: "Edlira" Trafficked child</p>
<p>NARRATOR: When Edlira finally got home, her mother wouldn't talk to her, wouldn't let her in the house. NPF negotiated an arrangement for Edlira, and she currently lives with her aunt and studies cosmetology in one of their vocational programs.</p>	
<p>EDLIRA: I am very happy to be in my hometown again. I am very happy that the teacher took me here, to this school.</p>	
<p>NAMIK: The main thing that NPF wants to achieve is to give satisfaction to these kids, to recognize their basic right to be like all the other kids and enjoy their childhood as all other children do.</p>	<p>Children dancing and playing music at NPF summer camp, including Anila</p>

<p>NARRATOR: NPF has programmes in Tirana, Berat, Korce and Elbasan, where many of the trafficked children originate. Altogether, they care for 630 children from 570 families.</p>	
<p>PIERRE: Namik spends his time with the families and he spends time with the children. He motivates, supervises, and coordinates the programs. He is totally indispensable, as is Robert.</p>	<p>Namik working with kids  TITLE: Pierre Ferry, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF</p>
<p>ROBERT: The economic problems lead to other problems, like the exploitation of the children. A complex intervention is needed in these situations.</p>	<p>Title: Robert Stratoberdha, NPF Director</p>
<p>NARRATOR: NPF has found that the key to identifying kids who are at risk of being trafficked, is to scour the streets at the beginning of each school year. Children who are not in school face the greatest danger. Namik, Robert, and other NPF workers approach the family to find out what can be done to get each child back in school.</p>	<p>shots of kids in street in Albania, Namik walking with family</p>
<p>NAMIK: Mihane, I don't want to interfere, but I am worried about your kids, their life, their problems. Emiliano do you like to go to school? EMILIANO: Yes. NAMIK: Will you go to school next year? I will take you to my classroom.</p>	<p>Namik with Mihane and her kids in their livingroom</p>
<p>ROBERT: There is no kid who says, 'I don't want to go to school.' All of them are willing to go to school, if some basic minimal requirements can be met.</p>	
<p>NARRATOR: NPF understands that lasting change for the children of Albania must include help for their families.</p>	
<p>ROBERT: This mother was trafficked herself, and so she accepted her kids being trafficked. With the intervention of our foundation, this cycle can be broken.</p>	<p>Robert talks with Keta and her kids in their home.</p>
<p>ROBERT: Keta sent her children to Greece. She thought that they would send her some money. But, it turned out to be a bad choice, as she now knows herself. Now we take care of her children, of their schooling and their needs. We take care of the entire family, even providing them with monthly food assistance.</p>	

<p>KETA: I sent them because I didn't have any money, I didn't have bread.</p>	
<p>NARRATOR: Children who have spent months or years working on the streets of other countries want to return to school, but often feel embarrassed to pick up where they left off. A 16 year old might have to return to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, and this keeps many children away. NPF has responded by creating special classrooms in public schools. The goal is to allow previously trafficked children to catch up and, ultimately, to re-integrate them into regular classrooms.</p>	<p>Kids in an NPF classroom.</p>
<p>ROBERT: And we think the first thing to do for these children is to show them affection and make them feel good at school.</p>	
<p>NARRATOR: For older children, NPF has created a vocational programme, which provides training in automotive repair, upholstery, sewing, cosmetology, and hairdressing.</p>	
<p>EDLIRA: I want very much to become a beautician. To learn how to apply makeup. I study and I am very happy.</p>	<p>Shots of Edlira in cosmetology class, applying makeup</p>
<p>ANILA: We learn, we read. I like the school, and Namik. More than anything, I like the school for the vocational classes because I get a skill for myself. I'm not doing it to please this person or that person – it's mine.</p>	
<p>PIERRE: NPF also has a program, which provides different activities during the summer, when the children are out of school, so that they always have something positive to do.</p>	
<p>NARRATOR: With school out, children are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Parents consider it a good time to send them to earn money for the family.</p>	
<p>PIERRE: The program helps to prevent the children from wandering the streets during the months of July and August.</p>	
<p>ANILA: It's good. Because, for example, now that school is over, in summer we go to different places. Whatever we want – we can have.</p>	
<p>ROBERT: We are very happy to see that children who didn't know what school was, who didn't have basic notions</p>	

of civic behavior, now they are like all the other kids. And sometimes they are even more gentle than the other kids.	Kids in summer camp
	kids playing music and dancing at summer camp
NAMIK: We get up in the morning with a child knocking at the door to share a problem and go to sleep at night with parents knocking at the door telling us their kids didn't get back home.	Begin end montage, shots of happy kids in NPF programme, kids interacting with Robert and Namik
	<i>begin end music</i>
KETA'S SON: If someone asks me when I grow up, 'read this to me please,' and I don't know how to read, it will be such a shame. He will think, 'look at this guy, 6 feet tall and he doesn't know how to read...'	
NATHALIE: The child has rights. There are international laws now that are there to protect the child, and he should not be there to be working, he should be there in school having fun, playing, being with his family and being surrounded by affection and love, and not by exploitation and violence.	
ANILA: One day a month ago, a friend of mine called from Greece. They were crying for me. 'Come here Anila, come here.' When they called me, I told them, you are making a big mistake staying there.	
ROBERT: Sometimes, the pressure of the street is too strong and makes the kids leave. This gets them out of our framework, away from the education we had planned for them, taking them back into the streets. However, these cases are few and far between.	
NARRATOR: NPF does have a high success rate and few children have left their programs, but thousands of children are still outside the country, and hundreds more leave each week. Unfortunately, child trafficking remains one of few potential sources of income for desperately poor families.	
	End montage with shot of Albanian flag
ROBERT: [13:10:48] A child is a child and a child should enjoy her childhood. And it is up to us, the adults, to make	

