

TROKOSI FACT SHEET

FACTS ABOUT TROKOSI SLAVERY

More info www.ecmafrica.org

- Called trokosi or fiashidi in Ghana, or ritual servitude
- In Ewe tribe of Ghana, Togo and Benin, West Africa
- Name means “wives of the gods,” but those who have been released from it say trokosi are nothing but slaves.
- Held as slaves by priests in idol shrines
- Work all day in priest’s fields without pay and often without food
- Raped regularly by the priest
- Forced to worship the idol, denied opportunity to even hear the Gospel
- Denied education
- Most are treated horrendously
- Girls are taken in as young as 4 years old, but they grow up in slavery, so the trokosi are all ages.
- According to custom, if a trokosi dies or escapes, she must be replaced with another girl from the family, so there is no end to the cycle unless liberation occurs.

- In 1997 the first survey showed about 5,000 in Ghana alone.
- Trokosi girls have an average of 4 children each, usually as a result of being raped by the idol priest or shrine elders, so in 1997 it involved 25,000 people in Ghana alone. While the children are not technically trokosi, they also belong to the priest and serve him.
- Through the intervention of Christian groups, about 3,000 of the 5,000 trokosi have been freed and about 2,000 remain in bondage (so with children, about 10,000 people are affected in Ghana.
- No trokosi from Togo or Benin have yet been liberated and no surveys have been done to determine their number.
- Practice was outlawed in Ghana in 1998, but because people fear the power of the idols, it has not been enforced.
- Fear of the occult world is the strong motivating factor that keeps the practice of trokosi slavery going.
- The practice is also called fiashidi, and in French-speaking countries voodooosi.

SLAVE LIBERATION PROJECT

More info www.kidsyes.org

Call [1-866-kidsyes](tel:1-866-kidsyes)

- Every Child Ministries is networking with Ghanaian Christian organizations in the project.
- Working for community-wide agreement to release the slaves and end slavery in that area.
- In areas where such agreements have already been reached, no slaves have been retaken and no new ones have been taken, so there is no recurring cycle.
- It costs an average of \$200 to liberate one trokosi and all her children, and to help her start a new life.
- The liberation money is used:
 - to facilitate the gathering of community elders (who may be scattered throughout the country) to discuss the issue and negotiate an end to the practice.
 - to motivate the priests by giving them slight compensation.
 - to hold a public ceremony to which government and community leaders are invited.