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There is a link between narcotics crime and human trafficking as experienced by Merry Utami (MU) a woman from Sukoharjo, Central Java, Indonesia, (<https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/merri-utami-migrant-domestic-worker-unwittingly-exploited-by-drug-traffickers-in-indonesia/>)

She was dragged into a drug case in 2001, which started when she went to Taipei and Hong Kong to become a migrant worker to support her poor family. She met a member of a drug syndicate who claimed to be a resident Canada and she were manipulated by professional drug traffickers into bringing 1.1 kilograms of heroin at Soekarno-Hatta Airport, Indonesia on October 31, 2001. In 2003 Merry was sentenced to death because she was convicted of illegally importing drugs into Indonesia, but she insists that she had no knowledge of her role, She is a victim of domestic violence and human trafficking. Merry's appeal was rejected by the Tangerang High Court in Indonesia in 2002. In 2014, the Supreme Court refused to annul her death sentence.

Then, The National Commission against Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan) assessed that judges and law enforcement parties who handled the Merry Utami case did not understand the women's case which contained elements of trafficking in persons. In this case, law enforcement does not recognize the link between human trafficking and drug syndicates. On the other hands, the American Center International Labor Solidarity (ACILS) in its Up Date Manual of Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in the Legal Process in Indonesia states that victims of trafficking in persons can include Migrant Workers, Domestic Helpers, Sex Workers, Bride Orders, Foreign Nationals marrying Indonesian women by ordering on women trafficking brokers, Child Labor, Cultural Exchanges and Women as Drug Couriers. Reminding that Trafficking in persons is the act of recruiting, transporting, harboring, sending, transferring or receiving a person by means of the threat of force, use of force, abduction, confinement, fraud, deception, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, debt bondage or payment or benefit so as to obtain the consent of a person who has control over another person, whether carried out within a country or between countries for the purpose of exploitation or causing people to be exploited.

A similar case was in 2010, Mary Jane (MJ) a Filipino woman who was offered a job as a housemaid in Kuala Lumpur by someone who really she did not know (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-28/legal-case-of-filipina-spared-from-indonesia-execution-continues/7368780>). When she arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia the job was not available and MJ was asked to go to Yogyakarta , Indonesia instead with a new suitcase and US\$500 in cash , then the Indonesian immigration officers at Yogyakarta Indonesia airport found in her suitcase 2.6 kilograms of heroin.

Both MU and MJ experienced elements of transferring victims from their home to abroad and there were acts of controlling victims which can be included threats of violence, use of force, kidnapping, confinement, counterfeiting, fraud, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, debt bondage or payment or benefits so as to obtain the consent of the person having control over the other person. The way the perpetrator controlled MJ was because the perpetrator was the one who gave her the job while the perpetrator of MU was her "boyfriend" , both of them were deceived by the perpetrator. Then there is the goal to cause people to be exploited. The perpetrators of human trafficking , both against MJ and MU, took advantage of their ignorance to get a profit by leaving a bag containing drugs and the two perpetrators used MJ and MU to make a profit by selling drugs in Indonesia. This action resulted in exploited MJ and MU facing the death penalty because they had to account for the illicit goods that did not belong to them.

It needs to enhance the capacity of law enforcement and judiciary on the provision of international covenants on transnational organised crimes including narcotic, corruption and human trafficking and also it needs to be improved the law enforcement knowledge on the forms and modes of trafficking in persons, not only ensnaring the field actors but also reaching the main perpetrators and can also identify who is the victim of trafficking in persons. So that it does not happen that victims of trafficking in persons are punished for criminal acts that they did not commit or the main perpetrators continue to carry out the modes of trafficking in persons which continuously occurred.