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UN IN ACTION

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VIETNAMESE BRIDES FOR EXPORT

VIDEO

BOATS UNLOAD

IMPOVERISHED
NEIGHBOURHOOD

BUSY STREETS

VAN TRAN THI ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Vietnam's economy is expanding fast as trade in manufactured goods continues to grow. (6)

But most of its people still live under dire conditions. As they try to escape poverty, a new kind of business is beginning to emerge, brides bound for Taiwan and South Korea. (12)

Marriages brokers are busy in Thuy Nguyen, just outside of Haiphong. Since 2001, over 400 women – 4 per cent of the population – have married foreigners. (11)

Assistant representative for the UN Population Fund in Vietnam, Van Tran Thi. (6)

VAN TRAN THI: (Vietnamese) **F**

"Most of these girls come from poor families. They believe marrying a foreigner will bring a more prosperous life for themselves and their parents. Another factor is domestic violence. Some have seen their mothers beaten by drunken husbands.

They don't want to follow that path.” (16)

NARRATION

STREET MARKET

But promises of a good life often fall short of their expectations. (5)

LE THI HONG WITH GROUP

And no one knows this better than Le Thi Hong. She studied Chinese and started an email relationship with a foreign man when she was eighteen. She moved to Taiwan but Hong's mother-in-law soon wrecked her dreams. (14)

LE THI HONG ON CAMERA

LE THI HONG: (Vietnamese) **F**

“She was jealous that my husband loved me, so she poisoned his mind against me. Then she secretly brought another woman from Vietnam to be his mistress. When I found out, I decided to return home.” (14)

DINH THI THUY WITH FAMILY

NARRATION

Dinh Thi Thuy's parents paid brokers 25 million dong - about fifteen hundred dollars - so she could marry a 40-year-old Korean. She met him only once. He flew back home before Dinh arrived in South Korea. (14)

DINH THI THUY ON CAMERA

DINH THI THUY: (Vietnamese) **F**

“When I arrived at the airport, he wasn't there. Instead, a woman met me. She told me my husband was poor and said I would be better off staying with her. I was sent to work cleaning rooms in a hotel. But one of my roommates told

me that the woman planned to sell me to a brothel.” (17)

NARRATION

THUY WALKING/BEAUTY
SCHOOL

Thuy sought help from the Vietnamese Embassy to return home. She is now learning a new trade at Hanoi’s beauty school, managed by the Vietnam Women’s Union. (9)

BEAUTY SALON

While Thuy’s mother is still in debt, unscrupulous brokers are thriving in the streets of Vietnam, waiting for the next victim. (8)

These young women were simply trying to fulfil the wishes of their parents. (5)

LE THI HONG: (Vietnamese) **F**

HONG ON CAMERA

“I left Vietnam for my parents and myself. Now that I am back, my parents say I should learn a trade and try to find a good Vietnamese husband.” (10)

NARRATION

HONG’S PARENTS ON CAMERA

Despite all adversity, Hong’s mother still believes that it’s better for her daughter to marry in search of a better life overseas. (8)

This report was prepared by William Ryan for the United Nations.

UN LOGO