

# SHAPING THE INVISIBLE

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## ABSTRACT

There were many, but all of them were invisible. Perhaps we simply chose not to see them because that was more convenient. We pretended not to see the problem, not to know the facts; rather than facing the truth, we avoided even looking for it. But, in what are they so different from us? We are all part of humankind and all deserving of the opportunity for happiness. Originating in antiquity, illegal hiring and labor exploitation are harsh realities that have not diminished with the passage of time. These abhorrent practices have kept pace with the evolution of society and created even stronger roots. They are nightmares from which their victims can never awake. They are hurricanes creating a path of destruction from which only the anguish and desecrated dreams of the exploited can survive. In this description of the phenomena of illegal hiring and labor exploitation, I will tell the story of those who experienced it until their annihilation. I will describe the supranational and national legislation that has addressed these social scourges. In particular, I will recount the birth and new form of article 603-bis of the Criminal Code, which has been and continues to be a shield against injustice for many men and women. In conclusion, I will point out the problematical role that criminal law has played in the effort to protect the innocent from caporals and ignoble employers. I will explain the plight of exploited who do not wish the best but only that the worst does not touch them anymore.