

Stop Trafficking!

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

April 2011 Vol. 9 No. 4

This issue highlights examples of labor trafficking and ways being put forth to combat it.

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Globalized Labor Exploits the Vulnerable

Ford Motor Company & Chinese Worker Abuse

In early March 2011 the Institute for Global Labor & Human Rights (formerly National Labor Committee) released an in-depth report, *"Dirty Parts/Where Lost Fingers Come Cheap: Ford in China."* The report



documented worker rights' violations at *Yuwei Plastics and Hardware Products* in Dongguan, China. According to workers, 80% of the factory's production is for the Ford Motor Company. The Yuwei factory has a U.S. office and warehouse in Ann Arbor, MI.

On March 13, 2009, 21-year-old Worker "A" had three fingers and several knuckles torn from his left hand when it was crushed in a stamping machine. He was making "RT Tubes" for Ford. Management deliberately instructed the worker to turn off the infrared safety monitoring system so he could work faster. *"We had to turn it off. My boss did not let me turn it on,"* said Worker A. He had to stamp out 3,600 "RT Tubes" a day, one every

Ford cont. pg. 2

Belgium - Brazilian Domestic Workers Tricked

In 2009 Latin-American undocumented workers, including 430 Brazilians with legal employment contracts, were enticed into leaving their jobs by an agency that promised to issue them a contract that could secure the regularization of their residence status.

An Italian evangelical minister established an agency and engaged up to 600 undocumented workers, the majority of whom were Brazilians.

Deceived with promises that the contract issued by this agency would ensure their qualification for the forthcoming Belgian regularization scheme, many left existing jobs and thus lost any valid chance of becoming regularized. The agency abused the Belgian titre-service voucher system and thereby profited by taking money from the State and the employer, while withholding wages from the workers.

In a titre-service, established in Belgium to combat unofficial employment, an agency employs workers and 'sells' their services to clients through vouchers. If a client is unhappy with a worker they ask the agency for a replacement. The client's only responsibility is to pay a voucher to the worker for the hours worked. The federal government finances the difference between the purchase price (7.50€) and the refund value (23€) of each service voucher.

Federal police in cooperation with labor inspectors arrested the minister.

Brazilians cont. pg. 2



Awareness

Ford *cont. from pg. 1*

12 seconds. Worker A received a total payment of just \$7,430 for the loss of three fingers, leaving his hand basically inoperative. Workers Compensation for a similar accident in the U.S. would result in a \$144,292 payment.

Among other abuses:

- Workers earn a base wage of just 80 cents per hour, work 14-hour shifts for seven days a week. During the peak season, workers toil 30 days a month, often drenched in their own sweat. Prospective hires are told they must “*work hard and endure hardship.*”
- At least four serious injuries — maimed hands and fingers — over the last several years. Seriously injured workers are fired. New workers receive no training or safety instruction before being assigned to operate dangerous machinery.

A spokesperson for the Institute, speaking on behalf of the injured worker, said, “*Ford should not be complicit in the payment of below subsistence wages and the suppression of local and internationally recognized worker rights standards.*”

To read the press release and Institute/National Labor Committee Report, “*Dirty Parts, Where Lost Fingers Come Cheap: Ford in China,*” go to: <http://www.nlcnet.org/reports?id=0629>

Democratic Republic of Congo Child Labor & Anti-Union Action



In November 2010 the *International Trade Union Confederation* (ITUC) released a report on core labor abuses in the *Democratic Republic of Congo* (DRC) at the *World Trade Organization's* Convention. The report found prevalent violations of all core international labor standards, especially with regard to child labor and forced labor.

The report stated that many so-called trade unions are actually organized by employers in an effort to discourage free trade unions from operating. Anti-union discrimination remains unpunished along with many other crimes against trade unions. Frequently the police and judiciary make arbitrary use of their powers against trade unionists, and cover up the actions of investors and corrupt officials who breach the law. Women face discrimination in employment and need their husbands' permission in order to perform salaried work.

Child labor, especially in its worst forms, remains a serious problem in the DRC. Child labor in mines and quarries is prevalent, and many children are forced into prostitution. The recruitment of child soldiers and the forced labor of many citizens by armed groups and certain units of the national forces are serious problems.

The ITUC report showed that there has been no conviction for human trafficking. It stressed the need to end that impunity. Full Report: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/report-for-the-wto-general-council,8052.html> (<http://www.ituc-csi.org/child-labour-and-anti-union.html>)

Brazilians *cont. from pg. 1*

The NGO *Abraço* sought partnership with unions, several NGOs and a group of lawyers, to defend these workers and provide assistance in helping them to access justice and get their salaries paid. *Abraço* organized demonstrations and a press conference to increase visibility within Belgian society. Despite struggles, undocumented workers went to the streets to demand their rights. It was the first time that “*illegal*” immigrants in Belgium demonstrated publicly en masse, supported by Socialist and Christian unions. (Source: redcross.ch/data/dossier/24/redcross_dossier_24_46_de.pdf)



Awareness

'Project STAMP' — Money Laundering & Human Trafficking

Project STAMP: Smuggler and Trafficker Assets, Monies and Proceeds, launched in 2010 by U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), is an enforcement initiative aimed at targeting the illicit proceeds earned by human smuggling and human trafficking (HS/HT) organizations.

Although the statistics are controversial because human trafficking is such a hidden crime, the U.N. estimates that trafficking represents a \$32 billion annual global trade that forces 12.3 million adults and children into slave labor or prostitution. Some experts say trafficking involving the sex trade is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises.

Anti-money laundering (AML) vendors are honing their systems to spot suspicious activity related to human trafficking, while the government promotes more awareness of the crime by informing banks and their vendors of its telltale signs. The *Bank Secrecy Act* (BSA) requires financial institutions in the U.S. to assist federal government agencies to detect and prevent money laundering. By spotting potential human trafficking patterns in the money nexus, prosecuting alleged purveyors is enhanced.

Project STAMP takes an aggressive anti-money laundering stance against organizations involved in HS/HT and continues the seizure of their assets as a crucial part of shutting down entrenched criminal activity. Following the money trail assists *Homeland Security Investigations* (HSI) in the identification of key members of criminal organizations, as well as in the identification of assets, monies, and proceeds derived from or used in support of their criminal activity.

HSI have already identified multiple methods to hide, move, and store illicit proceeds associated with illegal activity, including financial institutions, money services businesses and bulk cash smuggling. Seizing the funds that motivate these organizations is a high priority for HSI.

Federal laws related to smuggling, peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons, among others, are specified unlawful activities related to money laundering. Penalties for violating money laundering statutes (Title 18, U.S.C. §§ 1956, 1957) are significant and include fines of up to \$500,000 and/or imprisonment up to 20 years. Furthermore, any property, real or personal (or traceable to such property), involved in a transaction or attempted transaction is subject to forfeiture.

These penalties are important determining factors for a District Attorney when deciding whether to federally prosecute HS/HT violators. (http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1297182316667.shtm & http://www.americanbanker.com/btn_issues/24_3/aml-and-human-trafficking-1033642-1.html)

Uganda: Plight of Women from LRA Army

A March 2011 report from IRIN (*Integrated Regional Information Networks*), a service of the UN *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, states that women and girls returning to northern Uganda from forced conscription into the *Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA) struggle to resettle in their home communities because of stigma and a severe shortage of reintegration facilities suitable to their needs.

The LRA, formed in northern Uganda in 1986 as an armed rebellion against the Ugandan government, is now active in Southern Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. The group is estimated to have between 200 and 400 armed combatants and hundreds of abductees, a third of them under the age of 18. The UN *Children's Fund* (UNICEF) estimates that more than 25,000 youth have been abducted since 1986.

After leaving the LRA, former female combatants return to their villages with children forcibly fathered by LRA commanders and delivered in the bush. They are often shunned by their families and stigmatized as *'bush women'* by their communities. Many abandon their homes, going to the outskirts of Gulu, one of the largest cities in northern Uganda, to find alternative means of survival.

Originally gun-carrying combatants, cooks, logisticians, spies, sex partners and porters for the LRA, these women lead desperate lives working as prostitutes or brewing alcohol for a living. (<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=92122>)



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Advocacy

'Never Work Alone'

Slavery, servitude and forced labor are violations of individual freedoms, which deny millions of people their basic dignity and fundamental human rights. *Anti-Slavery International*, founded in 1839, works to end these abuses by exposing current cases of slavery, campaigning for its eradication, supporting the initiatives of local organizations to release people, and pressing for more effective implementation of laws against slavery.

The *International Trade Union Confederation* (ITUC) is a confederation of national trade union centers, each of which links together the trade unions of that particular country. The ITUC represents 176 million workers, 40% of whom are women, in 151 countries and territories and has 301 national affiliates. The ITUC's primary mission is to promote and defend workers' rights and interests. Its main areas of activity include trade union and human rights, equality and non-discrimination.

Together these two organizations published a 62-page report entitled, *'Never Work Alone: Trade Unions and NGOs joining forces to combat Forced Labour and Trafficking in Europe.'* The report builds a good case for how important it is for trade unions and non-profits to work together against human trafficking.

The report examines differences in perspectives between labor unions and non-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in regard to language used, their particular mission and mandate, their structures, members, and beneficiaries. It then highlights the areas of common ground in terms of outreach and organizing; intervention and assistance to victims; campaigning for change; training and education; and setting an example.

The report demonstrates the benefits and successes of collaboration by unions and NGOs in helping workers gain their rights, using five cases: 600 Serbian workers in forced labor in Azerbaijan; a Moroccan worker trafficked to Belgium; 430 Brazilian domestic workers trafficked in Belgium (See *Stop Trafficking* pg. 1); 58 Thai migrant workers trafficked to Poland; and a Serbian metal worker trafficked to Germany.



Campaign Against Forced Labor of Nepali Migrant Workers in the Gulf

Anti-Slavery International (ASI) and the *International Trade Union Confederation* (ITUC) launched a campaign to highlight the forced labor of Nepali migrant workers and call for an improvement in the fundamental rights of workers across the Persian Gulf States region.

An estimated six million Nepali workers live abroad. Every day, 1200 migrants leave Nepal - half legally, the other half illegally. Around 700,000 Nepali migrants work in the Gulf States, with 125,000 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where at least 45% work in the construction sector. Many also work in hospitality, as security guards, and as domestic workers.

In Dubai, some Nepali construction workers are trapped in conditions of forced labor after not being paid by their employers due to the economic crisis. They have no choice but to leave their work to scrape a living illegally. They are known as *'khaliballi'*, which means those without status.

One Nepali *'khaliballi'* said: *"I'd cancel my visa, get a ticket and go. I'm only hanging around here because I haven't been paid. Friends who get money from home to go back are better off than suffering in a foreign land."*

Many Nepali migrant workers fall victim to unregulated recruitment agencies that promise a good living overseas. To afford the agent's fee, many migrants take out huge loans, only to find on arrival in the Gulf that their agreed salary fails to materialize. Most are paid half of what they are promised and many are not paid at all.

ASI and ITUC are calling on better regulation of recruitment agents in Nepal and the Gulf States and an end to the illegal practice of migrant workers paying fees to agents, who by law are only entitled to receive payment from the employer for successfully recruiting a worker.

Both organizations are also calling for the UAE to end the 'sponsorship' system, which aside from Bahrain, exists across the region. Under this system migrant workers' visas are linked to one employer or 'sponsor', and in most countries they have no right to seek alternative employment. Combined with low pay, this method traps many thousands in exploitative conditions and even forced labor.

ASI and ITUC are also demanding all migrant workers in the Gulf States to be given the freedom of association and collective bargaining. Currently in the UAE migrant workers are not allowed to join a trade union and do not have the right to strike. Workers who protest against unfair working conditions or unpaid wages can face imprisonment and deportation. (<http://www.ituc-csi.org/new-campaign-to-combat-forced.html>)



Advocacy

5 Targeting the Sex Buyer

“A little over ten years ago, a Lithuanian girl committed suicide in Malmö, Sweden by jumping off a bridge onto a highway. Prior to that, she had been exploited by sex-buying men in Sweden. In the end, her desperation and sense of powerlessness became so overwhelming that she took her own life. She was just 16 years old.

In a compelling and frightening way, the 2002 Swedish film ‘*Lilja 4-ever*’, showed what human trafficking does — the life young girls are forced into.”

“Sex buying and human trafficking are cynical acts that have nothing to do with sexuality and love. Rather, they are bizarre, appalling forms of male domination over, primarily, women and young girls, — also men’s oppression of other males, primarily boys.”

These two excerpts come from a 60-page publication on human trafficking and prostitution entitled, ‘*Targeting the Sex Buyer. The Swedish Example: Stopping Prostitution and Trafficking Where It All Begins*’ published by the Swedish Institute.

The publication is meant to spread the word about effective ways to stem human trafficking and is available in English, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. (http://issuu.com/swedish_institute/docs/targeting_the_sex_buyer)

“He could be your neighbor, even your best friend. Or perhaps he is a colleague at work, or someone you talked to at a party last weekend. He appears to live a normal life—he’s married, has children, a good job—in other words, he’s a regular guy. But he also buys sexual services and thereby supports the market for sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking.”

“And under Swedish law he is a criminal. Swedish law focuses on these men rather than on the young girls and women they exploit. Why? The thinking behind the law is that it is the demand for sexual services that maintains prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes. The legal approach to this problem is often referred to as ‘the Swedish example.’”



Code in its magazine and on its website. The other US-based signatories are *Carlson Companies* and *Global Exchange’s Reality Tours*.

Carol Smolenski, the Executive Director of ECPAT-USA, reflecting in 2009 on ECPAT’s efforts to persuade companies in the US travel industry to sign the Code said, “*We’ve always had extreme reluctance from US companies to talk to us at all. We tried to get US airlines to train employees and show an in-flight video, but they all refused.*”

Since then the number of international signatories to the Code has increased from 623 to almost 1,000.

Regarding the responsibility of travel companies to combat child sex tourism, Smolenski stated, “*If they do nothing to raise awareness or to prevent child trafficking, they risk becoming an indirect and unintentional conduit for the abuse that takes place.*”

Recognizing the legal implications and risks to reputation of travel companies that do not address the issue, sustainable investors have been actively engaging with companies for several years. In response to a shareowner engagement effort led by *Boston Common Asset Management, Marriott International* agreed to implement training programs to address criminal activities taking place at its locations worldwide.

More recently, *Christian Brothers Investment Services* (CBIS) encouraged hotel chains operating in South Africa to take action to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and other human trafficking crimes during the *FIFA World Cup* held there in 2010. In January 2011, a coalition of investors led by CBIS asked hotels operating in Dallas to sign the Code in advance of the 2011 Super Bowl. The *Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility* (www.iccr.org) made major contributions to negotiations with Delta. (<http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/3168.html>) (<http://ecpat-usa.org/2011/03/delta-airlines-signs-the-code-of-conduct/>)

Delta Airlines Signs ‘Code’

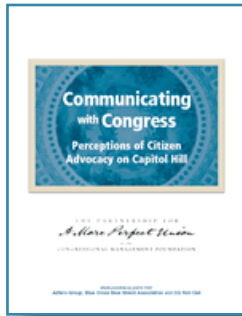
Delta Airlines became the first U.S. airline and the third US organization to sign *The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism* (the Code). In doing so, the airline has joined almost 1,000 global companies in signing a contract to protect children from sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism industries. Signatories to the Code agree to establish ethical policies regarding commercial sexual exploitation of children, train personnel in countries of origin and travel destinations on how to identify and report trafficking, contractually require suppliers to repudiate commercial sexual exploitation of children, provide information to travelers and local key personnel at destinations, and report annually. Delta has also agreed to include information about ECPAT (*End Child Prostitution and Trafficking*) and the



Action

Communicating with Congress: Perceptions of Citizen Advocacy on Capitol Hill

The *Congressional Management Foundation* (CMF) is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan non-profit dedicated to helping Congress and its Members meet the evolving needs and expectations of an engaged and informed 21st century citizenry. To learn about CMF, please visit: cmfweb.org



The Partnership For A More Perfect Union (PMPU), launched by the CMF in 2010, is dedicated to enriching the relationship between citizens and Congress by comprehensively addressing the communications challenges faced by both sides. The goal of the Partnership is to further meaningful civic engagement through education, re-establishing trust, and providing innovative yet pragmatic tools to facilitate purposeful two-way communication. Read about *Partnership* at: pmpu.org

A 2011 PMPU survey of Congressional staff revealed the following: Citizens Have More Power Than They Realize

Whether individuals make contact face-to-face, by phone, or through personalized e-mail or postal mail, Senators and Representatives are influenced by their constituents' own views about the public policy issues before them.

Constituents' Influence	
In-Person 'Issue' Visits from Constituents	46/51
Contact from a Constituent Representing Other Constituents	36/60
Individualized Postal Letters	20/70
Individualized Email Messages	19/69
Phone Calls	14/72
Comments During a Telephone Town Hall	17/68
Visit From a Lobbyist	8/74
News Editorial Endorsement of an Issue	10/65
Individualized Faxes	1/62
Form Postal Letters	1/53
Form Email Messages	1/50
Postcards	1/44
Comments on Social Media Sites	1/41
Form Faxes	0/30

Numbers (%) represent 'a lot of positive influence' vs. 'some influence'.

- Most of the staff surveyed said constituent visits to the D.C. office (97%) or to the district/state office (94%) have 'some' or 'a lot of influence' on an undecided Member.
- When asked about strategies directed to their offices back home, staffers said questions at town hall meetings (87%) and letters to the editor (80%) have 'some' or 'a lot of influence'.
- Constituents who personally communicate with their legislators – except via fax – are more influential than lobbyists and news editors.

It's Not the Delivery. It's the Content That Matters

There is virtually no distinction by the congressional staff surveyed between email and postal mail. They view them as equally influential to an undecided Member. What matters most is the content. Whether they are delivered via email or postal mail, messages that are customized in some way by the constituents sending them are much more influential than identical form messages. The personal touch from a constituent goes a long way toward differentiating a message.

- Nearly identical percentages of staffers said postal mail (90%) and email (88%) would have 'influence' on an undecided Member of Congress.
- About 20% of staffers said individualized email/postal mail would have 'a lot of influence' on an undecided Member and only 1% said identical 'form' email/postal mail would.
- Some helpful ways for constituents to personalize their messages include discussing the impact of a bill on the state or district, providing the reasons they support or oppose the bill or issue, and providing a relevant personal story.

Asked how important were the following in learning constituents' views and opinions:

- Attending events in district/state: 77% very important
- Personalized messages from constituents (email, postal mail, faxes, phone calls): 70% very important
- In person town hall meetings: 57% very important. (Source: pmpu.org/wp-content/uploads/CWC-Perceptions-of-Citizen-Advocacy.pdf)

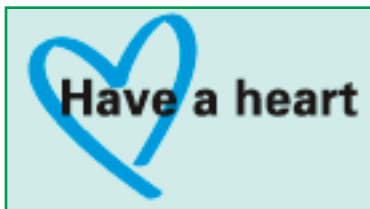
Role of Social Media in Communicating with Constituents		
	Communicating Member's Views	Understanding Constituents' Views
FaceBook	20% very imp.	8% very imp.
UTube	20% very imp.	4% very imp.
Twitter	12% very imp.	4% very imp.



Action

'Have a Heart'

In November 2010 UN General Ban Ki-moon launched the *UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons*. The *Trust Fund*, part of the *UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons* adopted by the General Assembly in July 2010, provides humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of human trafficking with the aim of increasing the number of victims who are rescued and supported, and broadening the extent of assistance they receive.



The fund-raising slogan for the *Trust Fund* is "Have a Heart for Victims of Human Trafficking" making reference to the 'Blue Heart', which is becoming an international symbol against human trafficking and solidarity with its victims.

For more information:
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking-fund.html>

Thank Delta!

Thank Richard Anderson, CEO of Delta, for signing *The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*.

Go to Change.org at:
<http://www.change.org/petitions/thank-delta-for-signing-the-code-of-conduct-protecting-children>

Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888

'The Cost of Living'

A documentary, *'The Cost of Living'*, shows the plight of Nepali migrant workers trafficked to Gulf countries.

These photos are from the documentary.

(Rt.) Nepali workers in the Gulf States live in crowded, unsanitary conditions, without rights or recourse.



(Middle photo) Body of a domestic worker brought home to Nepal. (Bottom photo) Passport of the woman killed while working under forced conditions in Lebanon.

Informative Web Sites:
 (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

International Trade Union Confederation

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/>

Videos:

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/the-cost-of-living.html>

<http://www.ituc-csi.org/decisions-for-life-helping-young.html>

Products of Slave Labor

<http://www.productsosslavery.org/>

Contacting the Congress

<http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>

Trade unions are pioneering to address this modern day slavery in domestic, construction and other work in Gulf States.

To view the documentary, go to:
<http://www.ituc-csi.org/the-cost-of-living.html>

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/archives.htm>

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