

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Co-Sponsored by:

- *Sisters of the Divine Savior*
- *Capacitar International, Inc.*

1 This issue highlights labor abuses in the U.S.A. and abroad.

Vol. 2 No.10 October 15, 2004

Study of Forced Labor in U.S.

A team of researchers from *Free the Slaves* and the *Human Rights Center of the University of California, Berkeley* conducted a study to obtain data through a telephone survey of 49 service providers that have worked with or are expert in forced labor cases, a press survey of 131 incidents of forced labor, and eight case studies of forced labor in different regions of the United States. The researchers concluded that forced labor is a serious and pervasive problem in the United States. At any given time 10,000 or more people work as forced laborers in scores of cities and towns across the country, with the likelihood that the actual number is much higher — into the tens of thousands. They concluded that forced labor is hidden, inhumane, widespread, and criminal. They urge a sustained and coordinated effort by U.S. law enforcement, social service providers, and the general public in order to expose and eradicate this illicit trade.

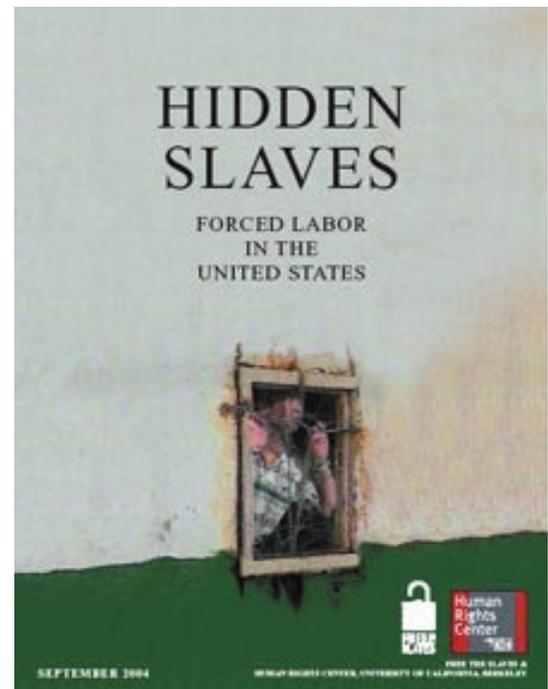
Victims of forced labor come from numerous ethnic and racial groups. Most are “trafficked” from 35 or more countries

and, through force, fraud, or coercion, find themselves laboring against their will in the United States. Chinese comprised the largest number of victims, followed by Mexican and Vietnamese. Some victims are born and raised in the United States and find themselves pressed into servitude by fraudulent or deceptive means. Over the past five years, forced labor operations have been reported in at least 90

Forced Labor pg. 2

What Is Forced Labor?

The *International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning Forced Labor (No. 29)* defines forced labor as “...all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered him/herself voluntarily.”



The report documents the nature and scope of forced labor in the United States from January 1998 to December 2003. It is the first study to examine the numbers, demographic characteristics, and origins of victims and perpetrators of forced labor in the United States and the adequacy of the U.S. response to this growing problem since the enactment of the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (Trafficking Act) of 2000*.



Awareness

Forced Labor

cont. from pg. 1

U.S. cities. These operations tend to thrive in states with large populations and sizable immigrant communities, such as California, Florida, New York, and Texas—all of which are transit routes for international travelers.

Forced labor is prevalent in five sectors of the U.S. economy: prostitution and sex services (46%), domestic service (27%), agriculture (10%), sweatshop/factory (5%), and restaurant and hotel work (4%) (See Report for complete data). Forced labor persists in these sectors because of low wages, lack of regulation and monitoring of working conditions, and a high demand for cheap labor. These conditions enable unscrupulous employers and criminal networks to gain virtually complete control over workers' lives.

The United States government has been a leader in recognizing and combating forced labor worldwide. The 2000 Trafficking Act embodies an aggressive, proactive approach to the problem of human trafficking and forced labor, which:

- criminalizes procuring and subjecting another human being to peonage, involuntary sex trafficking, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor;
- provides social services and legal benefits to survivors of these crimes, including authorization to remain in the country;
- provides funding to support protection programs for survivors in the United States as well as abroad; and
- includes provisions to monitor and eliminate trafficking in countries outside the United States.

Despite these considerable advancements, the Trafficking Act has some notable shortcomings. The

Act conditions immigration relief and social services on prosecutorial cooperation and thus creates the perception that survivors are primarily instruments of law enforcement rather than individuals who are, in and of themselves, deserving of protection and restoration of their human rights.

Furthermore, more proactive measures need to be taken to train law enforcement officers, particularly at the local level, to identify victims and forced labor operations; improve cooperation and information sharing on forced labor between federal and state agencies; revise procedures for the handling of survivors; and provide survivors with protection, benefits, and compensation.

By and large, victims of forced labor are reluctant to report abuse to law enforcement personnel because they fear retribution from their traffickers. Many victims have an inherent fear of police based on their past experience with corrupt authorities in their home countries and communities. To overcome these obstacles there is an urgent need to train law enforcement personnel at all levels to recognize and assist trafficking victims.

Trafficking is defined almost exclusively as a federal crime to be handled by federal authorities. This limited mandate has hindered coordination between federal and state law enforcement agencies that, in turn, has allowed perpetrators of forced labor to go undetected. Moreover, federal law enforcement personnel are often unable to protect survivors and their families from traffickers because authorities lack the necessary legal tools, assistance, and funds to provide them with secure and safe refuge. Taken together, these obstacles can impede a survivor's willingness to cooperate in criminal investigations.

Forced labor survivors are at significant risk of developing health related problems. Most survivors come from impoverished areas of the world where access to adequate health care is limited or nonexistent. Because forced labor victims often circumvent formal medical screenings for

migrants, many arrive in the United States without proper immunizations and bearing communicable diseases. Once trafficked migrants reach their destination in the United States, they continue to face a variety of health risks as they begin working in dangerous and unregulated work environments. Those who work in the sex trade are especially at risk of contracting AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. Perpetrators of forced labor frequently use violence or the withholding of food as a means of "breaking," controlling, and punishing their workers.

Victims of forced labor often suffer psychological assaults designed to keep them submissive. Cut off from contact with the outside world, they can lose their sense of personal efficacy and control, attributes that mental health professionals have long considered essential to good mental and physical health. In such situations many forced labor victims become increasingly dependent on their captors, if merely to survive. While little is known about the specific psychological effects of forced labor, survivors often report feelings of depression, reoccurring nightmares, and panic attacks.

While the Trafficking Act has greatly amplified the federal government's role in investigating and prosecuting forced labor cases in the United States, the job of providing basic social and legal services to survivors has fallen squarely on the shoulders of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social service agencies. Yet fewer than half of these agencies are able to meet these needs. Social service agencies report that finding appropriate housing for survivors has been one of their greatest challenges.

Housing that is safe and secure can protect survivors from their former captors. Yet, housing of any kind can be costly for social service agencies. Much would be gained if these agencies were provided with greater financial support so that they can provide survivors of forced labor with safe and adequate housing and other basic legal and social services.



Advocacy

These four cases, as well as four others included in the Hidden Slaves Report, demonstrate the pervasive presence of slave labor within the U.S.

The Report also cited a domestic case that occurred in Ohio and Michigan where U.S. teenage girls had been kidnapped and forced into prostitution.

The proposed Domestic Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2004 would prosecute those who victimize U.S. citizens into venues of forced labor. (See September issue of *Stop Trafficking*.)

Forced Domestic Servitude

Washington, D.C.

The Satias, two Cameroonian sisters and their husbands, recruited young Cameroonian girls, aged fourteen and seventeen, to work as domestics in their Washington, D.C. homes. The girls were recruited with the promise of studying in the U.S. in exchange for providing childcare and domestic help. Once in the U.S., the domestic servants were confined to the Satias' homes, working in excess of fourteen hours a day without remuneration and under threat of violence and deportation. The younger survivor escaped in 1999 after two years of captivity. A year later the older survivor fled, after having been exploited for five years. In 2001 the Satia sisters and their husbands were charged with forced labor. Found guilty, they received criminal sentences ranging from five to nine years and were ordered to pay their victims over \$100,000 in restitution.

Forced Prostitution

Florida and South Carolina

Based in Mexico, the Cadena family members lured young girls and women to come to the United States ostensibly to work as waitresses and domestic workers. Between August 1996 and February 1998, the Cadena family brought between twenty-five and forty unsuspecting victims to Florida and South Carolina and forced them to work as prostitutes to service primarily Mexican migrant farm workers. In March 1998 several Cadena family members and their associates were brought to justice, receiving criminal sentences ranging from two to fifteen years imprisonment.

Forced Farm Labor

Florida

Florida citrus pickers endured abuse by R&A Harvesting, a farm labor contractor, between January 2000 and June 2001. The company used threats of violence to force as many as seven hundred Mexican and Guatemalan workers to labor for little or no pay. After R&A Harvesting employees attacked a van driver suspected of assisting the workers, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a local community organization, pressured prosecutors to investigate the allegations of forced labor. The owners of R&A Harvesting, the three Ramos brothers and a cousin, were tried and convicted of forced labor charges in 2002. One of the brothers, Ramiro Ramos, was sentenced in 2004 to fifteen years in prison, fined \$20,000 and ordered to forfeit property valued at over \$3 million. Another brother, Juan Ramos, is being re-sentenced.



Locations of reported forced labor cited in the Report.

Forced Labor in a Factory

Oklahoma

Qualified skilled workers were recruited in September 2001 in India through the Al-Samit International labor-recruitment agency and promised good jobs in a factory that manufactures pressure valves in the state of Oklahoma. On arrival, the workers were forced to surrender their travel documents and to live in the factory and work twelve to sixteen hours a day, six days a week, for well below the legal minimum wage. By February 2002, all of the approximately fifty workers had managed to escape and later filed a civil suit against their former employer. Subsequently, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency charged with investigating and filing cases of employment discrimination, filed a separate civil action against the John Pickle Company.

“Forced labor is hidden, inhumane, widespread, and criminal.”



Advocacy

Coffee Farmers Get Supplemental Income Thanks to Fair Trade

U.S.A. purchasing power can directly alleviate forced labor conditions abroad as well as at home.

TransFair USA, the nation's only independent, third party certifier of Fair Trade products, announced unprecedented demand for Fair Trade Certified™ coffee during the year 2003. For the period of January 1 through December 31, 2003, TransFair USA certified 18.7 million pounds of coffee, up from 9.8 million pounds in the previous 12 months -- a year-over-year growth rate of 91%. Supplemental income generated for coffee farmers during that same period totaled \$15.9 million, bringing the total additional income farmers have received from U.S. sales of Fair Trade Certified coffee in five years to \$34 million. In 2003, 100 new companies signed up to sell Fair Trade Certified products and approximately 8,000 new retail outlets began selling Fair Trade Certified products for the first time, bringing the total to almost 20,000 cafes, restaurants and supermarkets nationwide.

Fair Trade Certified coffee imports have grown at a dramatic 75% average annual growth rate since TransFair USA launched the label in late 1998. In 2003, market growth accelerated to 91%, demonstrating increased consumer demand for Fair Trade coffee as well as the concept's entry into mainstream distribution channels like Dunkin' Donuts.

Faced with declining quality, the destabilization of historically high-quality suppliers, and growing concern over the suffering of coffee farmers in today's prolonged price crisis, the specialty coffee industry is embracing Fair Trade certification as the most effective strategy for delivering a fair price back to farmers. Thus Fair Trade emerged as the fastest growing group in the specialty coffee industry.

"The accelerating growth of this market in 2003 reaffirms that Fair Trade certification is a win-win for farmers, businesses and consumers alike. This growth confirms what market research has been indicating for some time now: consumers are increasingly concerned about where their products come from, as well as the social and environmental impact of those products," said Paul Rice, CEO and President of TransFair USA. "The success of the Fair Trade Certified label is a tribute to the vision of the specialty coffee industry, which has demonstrated that Fair Trade is not only good for farmers, but also good for business. This is an industry and a model that enable us all to make a powerful difference with every cup."

Since it opened its doors five years ago, TransFair USA's certification of 41 million pounds of coffee, tea and cocoa has translated into millions of dollars in additional income for farmers in Latin America, Africa and Asia -- \$34 million for coffee farmers alone. Farmers use the additional income to improve nutrition, healthcare, housing, education and quality of life for their families. The higher incomes also allow farmers to devote more meticulous attention to their crops to ensure a high quality harvest. For many, Fair Trade represents a chance for a brighter future.

"Thanks to Fair Trade, our income has grown tremendously over the past few years. In real terms, this means healthy children who can stay in school, instead of having to go to work in the fields. It means money to maintain the award-winning quality of our coffee which is demanded by discriminating U.S. consumers.

And it means training programs to develop the management skills of our cooperative members and help them transition to organic coffee cultivation. Through Fair Trade we have achieved all these things," said Sabino Brenes, a farmer with COOCAFE, a Fair Trade coffee cooperative based in Costa Rica. Founded in 1988, COOCAFE's 3,500 family farmers export gourmet coffee to Europe, the U.S. and Canada.



Look for this logo to be sure that what you buy is a Fair Trade product.

Why Fair Trade Certification is Needed

Throughout Latin America, Asia, and Africa, family farmers follow generations of tradition to cultivate the world's finest coffee, tea, bananas and other food products. Historically, however, lack of market access and price volatility in global commodities markets have prevented family farmers from receiving a fair price for their harvests. When local market prices fall below the cost of production, farming families struggle just to survive. Coffee is the second most heavily traded commodity in the world, after oil, and farmer prices have plummeted to their lowest level in recorded history, forcing millions of coffee farmers off the land and into poverty.



Advocacy

Fair Trade Growth

Fair Trade is an innovative, market-based approach to sustainable development. Fair Trade helps family farmers in developing countries gain direct access to international markets, as well as develop the business capacity necessary to compete in the global marketplace. By learning how to market their own harvests, Fair Trade farmers are able to bootstrap their own businesses and receive a fair price for their top-quality products. This leads to higher family living standards, thriving communities and more sustainable farming practices. Fair Trade empowers farming families to take care of themselves - without developing dependency on foreign aid.

2003 Highlights

- *Dunkin' Donuts* introduced a new line of espresso beverages made exclusively with Fair Trade Certified coffee beans. The national chain targeted more than 1,500 stores across New England for its initial rollout, and plans to offer the line nationwide in over 4,500 stores in the future.
- *Procter & Gamble* launched a Fair Trade Certified coffee-- Mountain Moonlight Fair Trade Certified. *USA Today* characterized the move as "a powerful -- if not precedent setting -- nod to the fair trade coffee movement," and predicted it would nudge rivals such as Kraft Foods Inc. and Nestle USA to consider doing the same.
- Coffee roasters already participating in Fair Trade certification increased certified coffee purchases by 125 %.

Additional information

- Over one million family farmers in 45 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia are now enjoying a better life thanks to Fair Trade.
- TransFair USA has partnered with almost 300 specialty coffee companies, certifying a cumulative total of 41.2 million pounds over the last five years.
- Building on the success of coffee, TransFair USA recently launched Fair Trade Certified tea, chocolate, bananas, mangoes, pineapples and grapes.
- Fair Trade Certified products are now sold in over 20,000 retail outlets nationwide.
- Almost 85% of the Fair Trade coffee and 100% of the Fair Trade tea, chocolate and fresh fruit currently sold in the US are also certified organic.



Photo compliments of SNJM Justice cards.

SNJM Justice cards, are available at:
www.site-ology.com/snjmjusticecards/

Visit the website to view and purchase other beautiful cards with thought-provoking messages.

**Toll-Free Hotline:
(Trafficking Information
and Referral)
1-888-3737.888**

**Important Web-Site:
Office of Refugee Resettlement
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking**



Action

Demand the World's Largest Chocolate Company to Trade Fair with Cocoa Farmers

M&M/Mars is the largest chocolate and candy company in the world, with annual sales of more than \$20 billion. M&M/Mars is the third largest private company in the USA and its three owners are each worth \$10.4 billion. M&M's are the world's top-selling candy. Given these facts, M&M/Mars has the highest responsibility and the most resources to offer Fair Trade Certified chocolate. In June, more than 200 faith-based, labor, environmental, child labor, and student groups signed a letter supporting *Global Exchange's* campaign demands - asking M&M/Mars to offer Fair Trade Certified chocolate.

(Ed. There is a link on the web site { <http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/marscampaignsignon2002.html> } to the letter and to the impressive list of organizations that signed it.)

Through Global Exchange's subsequent national consumer advocacy campaign, M&M/Mars has received an outpouring of requests for Fair Trade-- including more than 1,000 letters from schoolchildren, and over than 5,000 faxes and countless e-mails and phone calls from adults. In February of 2004, two coalitions of highly respected national organizations requested meetings with M&M/Mars to discuss Fair Trade purchasing, meetings which M&M/Mars unfortunately refused to hold. Despite such overwhelming appeals for Fair Trade, M&M/Mars continues to refuse to offer Fair Trade Certified chocolate, and reiterates total faith in the industry Protocol and other development projects. Despite the good intentions behind these efforts, none ensures the minimum price producers need, and the independent certification that consumers want.

Fair Trade incorporates all these components, offering the best solution for M&M/Mars, producers, and chocolate lovers. Given M&M/Mars' continued lack of interest in selling Fair Trade chocolate and ensuring a decent life for farmers and their families, it is clear that consumers in growing numbers need to keep pushing for Fair Trade chocolate!

Join the request for M&M/Mars to sell Fair Trade Certified chocolate today! askmms@mmmars.com
Tel. 800-627-7852

Other ways to help!

1. RALLY for Fair Trade at M&M/Mars facilities and surrounding communities. M&M/Mars has facilities across the country. Fair Trade needs people who live around these facilities to join in Fair Trade rallies at the facility or in town, and take part in delegations that will meet with company management. Contact Fair Trade if you live around one of these cities and want to help out:

Albany, GA
Burr Ridge, IL
Chicago, IL
Cleveland, TN
Columbia, SC
Columbus, OH
Elizabethtown, PA
Greenville, TX
Hackettstown, NJ
Henderson, NV
Las Vegas, NV
Mattoon, IL
McLean, VA
(Washington DC area)
Reno, NV
Vernon, CA
Waco, TX

2. Write to M&M/Mars asking them to buy Fair Trade cocoa. Ask if they have a corporate code of conduct that meets the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions and applies to their suppliers. If so, what are they doing to ensure this is implemented and monitored? Suggest they join with non-governmental organizations that are seeking to assist companies to improve conditions of employment in the supply chain.
3. Educate families about the issue. Teachers and youth groups- we have some great lesson plans on chocolate, cocoa production, child labor, and related issues to help you work this into your educational programs.
4. Sell Fair Trade chocolate and cocoa products for FUNDRAISING and get stores to stock them. Fair Trade chocolate and cocoa fundraisers are perfect for schools, faith-based groups, clubs, and organizations. All concerned chocolate lovers can ask local stores to stock Fair Trade chocolate and cocoa. Fair Trade has a fundraising product list from 100% Fair Trade companies offering wholesale prices, and a guide for talking with local retailers.



SNJM Justice Photo



Buying Fair Trade Coffee Does Justice; Drinking Fair Trade Coffee Gives Pleasure!

Action

Informative Web Sites:

(Each contains information related to human trafficking)

Hidden Slaves Report

http://www.freetheslaves.net/resources/pdfs/Hidden_Slaves.pdf

Global Exchange Fair Trade

<http://www.globalexchange.org/>
(Action tools, ideas, information, or research resources)

Campaigns:

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/coffee/>

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/fairtrade/cocoa/mmmars.html>

Shop at Global Exchange's Fair Trade stores:

www.globalexchangestore.org
(Source: <http://www.fairtradefederation.com/networks/features.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://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraffic/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please use this e-mail address: jeansds2000@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout:
Jean Schafer, SDS

Fair Trade has never been more important to the world's coffee farmers. A profound crisis has taken hold in the coffee industry. Due to global oversupply of low-quality coffee, the world market price of coffee plummeted last year to all-time lows. As a result, thousands of small farmers and coffee pickers are losing their land or jobs and are struggling to feed their families.

For farmers involved in the international Fair Trade network, there is an alternative. **Fair Trade** ensures that farmer cooperatives receive at least \$1.26 per pound for their coffee, guaranteeing farmers enough to meet their needs and improve their communities.

Co-op America has launched a campaign to dramatically increase the amount of fair trade coffee sold in the US. Visit the Fair Trade Coffee Campaign site (www.fairtradeaction.org) to learn more, take action, and help bring hope to the world's coffee farming communities.

Spark More Demand for Fair Trade Coffee

The more demand created for Fair Trade coffee, the more farmers can be brought into the Fair Trade system. **Here are some ways you can help:**

- Challenge yourself to make all of your coffee purchases count for farmers and the environment.
- If there is Fair Trade certified coffee in your local grocery store, please try it. If Fair Trade has not reached your community, ask store managers to carry it—most grocery stores provide a customer request form. A list of companies selling Fair Trade

coffee online is at the Ladder Leaders on Co-op America's Coffee Ladder of Labor Responsibility (www.sweatshops.org/buy/ladders_coffee_leaders.html). Ask your local grocery to carry one of these brands. Until they do you may purchase Fair Trade coffee online or at any of the retail outlets listed at www.fairtradecertified.org.

- Ask your workplace, place of worship, or civic group to serve Fair Trade coffee.
- Buy organic, Fair Trade coffee in bulk quantities to save money and ensure you always have a supply. TransFair USA maintains a detailed list of which coffee companies, roasters and retail locations sell Fair Trade-certified coffee at www.fairtradecertified.org
- Save money— get premium Fair Trade coffee at about half the price by buying green coffee beans and roasting them yourself. You'll have to invest in a small coffee roaster, which costs about \$100 and will eventually pay for itself. If your household drinks one pound of coffee per week, you'll save up to \$300 a year buying green beans. Companies, like Seven Bridges Cooperative (www.breworganic.com), that sell un-roasted coffee and home roasters claim just-roasted coffee tastes fresher. You also have the luxury of choosing a light or dark roast for every cup.
- What more can you do? Visit http://www.sweatshops.org/action/transform_intro.html (Source: http://www.sweatshops.org/action/action_coffee_crisis.html)