Stop Trafficking!

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter

August 2011 Vol. 9 No. 8

This issue highlights labor abuses and successes in the context of sports, tourism, retailers, and legislative responses.

Sponsored by the: Sisters of the Divine Savior

Sports: Role in Human Trafficking

2022 FIFA World Cup & Labor Abuse

A multimedia report from the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) uncovers the human cost of the huge migrant labor force in the Gulf States of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The ITUC commissioned the report, entitled ‘Hidden Faces of the Gulf Miracle’, in order to draw attention to the issue of exploitation of migrant workers within the framework of the Qatar 2022 World Cup. The aim is to increase awareness of the organizers and to enhance the conditions for migrant workers in Qatar. The report illustrates the poor working and living conditions of these workers, mainly from India, Pakistan and Nepal.

By government figures, 825,000 of the 4.1 million people living in the UAE are citizens and 70% of the population are migrants.

The NFL & Sweatshops

Women at the 'Ocean Sky' sweatshop in El Salvador are paid just eight cents for each $25 National Football League (NFL) T-shirt they sew. Their wages amount to just 3/10ths of 1% of the NFL shirt's retail price.

Workers sewing for NFL, Reebok, Puma, Old Navy (GAP), Columbia, Talbots and Penguin (Munsingwear) are drenched in their own sweat. Drinking water is filthy. They are cursed at. Garments are hurled in their faces. Surveillance cameras monitor the workers’ every move. Overtime is forced. They earn 72 to 92 cents an hour, one quarter of what a family needs to survive. Anyone even asking for their rights is immediately fired and blacklisted. Each of these accusations is backed with research and facts.

The corporate codes of conduct and corporate monitoring on the part of the NFL, Reebok, Puma, GAP and the other companies have failed miserably.
Qatar cont. from pg. 1

Qatar is the richest nation in the world with a 2010 per capita income of $88,000 according to the International Monetary Fund. A census published in Qatar in October 2010 showed the population of the oil-rich state had more than doubled in six years to 1.69 million, but native Qatari number only around 200,000. In the labor market, the demographics are even more striking — just 6% of the workforce is Qatari.

A Nepalese construction worker is lucky to get $3,600 a year. A Filipina domestic worker in Doha tearfully explained she was hoping to get an annual salary of $2,500, often working 18 hours a day, before she ran away from her abusive employer.

Qatar expects exponential growth in the migrant population in preparation for the 2022 World Cup when infrastructure investments are expected to top $100 billion. Twelve stadiums will be built or renovated and fitted with air-conditioning to allow for the searing summer heat. There will be dozens of giant new hotels with 70,000 new rooms, new rail and subway networks, a whole new city with 200,000 residents and a $20 billion upgrade for the road network. Estimates suggest up to one million additional workers are needed for the job.

Pressure will be on the world football body FIFA and the Western companies lining up for lucrative World Cup contracts to ensure that workers are provided with decent working, wage and housing conditions.

According to the report the economy of Qatar and also the UAE is based on the labor exploitation of migrant workers. “Just 6% of the working population of Qatar is Qatari - their economy and their ability to deliver the World Cup is totally dependent on severe exploitation of migrant labor, which we believe to be barely above forced labor conditions,” said the general secretary of the Building Workers International (BWI).

“A huge migrant labor force, with very few rights, no access to any unions, very unsafe practices, and inhumane living conditions will be literally putting their lives on the line to deliver the 2022 World Cup,” said the general secretary of the ITUC.

As outlined in the report, FIFA requires football manufacturers to respect workers’ rights in its licensing program, but has no such standards for companies building World Cup venues. Therefore ITUC appealed to FIFA President and Qatar’s FIFA delegate, urging the organization to protect the hundreds of thousands of workers on construction sites provided for the World Cup. (http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/en/stories/june2011/the-fifa-world-cup-in-qatar-and-exploitation-of-migrant-workers-new-report.html)

Ocean Sky cont. from pg. 1

The U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement has ended in a race to the bottom, with workers stripped of their rights and trapped in poverty.

The Institute for Global Labor and Human Rights is calling upon U.S. and Salvadoran Government officials, along with representatives of the NFL, Reebok, Puma, GAP and other labels to travel to El Salvador and meet face to face with the ‘Ocean Sky’ workers. Consumers must demand that the U.S. Government implement the worker rights provisions in the US-CAFTA. Currently, only corporations have rights. But the workers want to be treated like human beings.

Sign the petition: http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/677/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5621

The 2012 Olympics & Sex

Next year, people from at least 205 nations across the world will descend on London as it hosts the 2012 Olympics. Meet two of them:

• He’s a world-class sprinter.
• She’s a normal young girl.
• He’s lured by the promise of a gold medal.
• She’s lured by the promise of a better education.
• His trainer smiles and whispers to him “trust me, you’re the best”.
• Her trafficker smiles and whispers to her “trust me, it’s in your best interests”.
• His entourage take his suitcases.
• Her trafficker takes her passport and documents.
• He arrives at the hotel, his national anthem running through his head.
• She arrives at the hotel, her trafficker’s threats running through her head.
• He will be heading to the arena to face his destiny.
• She will be heading to the brothel to face hers.
• How his story ends? It’s up to him.
• How her story ends?
• It’s up to the staff in that hotel to notice her.
• It’s up to the guests in that hotel to realize something is wrong.
• It’s up to her community at home to understand she may be in a vulnerable situation.
• It’s up to every one of us to ensure that it is impossible for traffickers to hide themselves and their victims in our communities.

Communities in every corner of the world offer hospitality to those on a journey — a room, a bed, a warm welcome.

But we want to know that there is no room for trafficking. For suggestions on what to do while visiting hotels in Britain, visit the Stop the Traffik website: http://www.stophetraffik.org/
Domestic Servants

Challenges: Provide a ‘Bill of Rights’
Domestic work (done by house cleaners, nannies, caregivers, etc.) is among the most exploited labor in the USA because the sector is excluded from some of the most basic labor protections that other industries count on. Many service providers attest that the highest percentage of their forced labor cases are found in domestic servitude and care giving. Slavery often flourishes in the industries that are part of the informal economy and are most neglected by legal protections. (Ed. Note: This article was prepared before the outcome of the vote was known.)

In July 2011 the California Legislature considered AB 889 - The California Domestic Worker Bill of Rights (CDWBR). It will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee in August. If enacted, AB 889 would address this abuse by providing domestic workers with:

- **Equal overtime pay.** Currently, personal attendants are excluded from overtime rights and live-in domestic workers receive less protection under overtime laws. The CDWBR would include ALL domestic workers in California’s overtime protections of time and a half after eight hours in one workday and 40 hours in one workweek and double time after 12 hours in one workday.
- **Equal right to a safe and healthy workplace.** Domestic workers are currently excluded from protection under California’s Occupational Safety & Health Act (CAL-OSHA). The CDWBR would extend CAL-OSHA protection to ALL domestic workers.
- **Equal right to worker’s compensation.** Domestic workers are left out of California’s worker’s compensation laws when they work in private households.

Successes: Global Labor Rights
During the 100th annual Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on June 16, 2011 delegates adopted a historic set of international standards aimed at improving the working conditions of tens of millions of domestic workers worldwide.

The *Convention on Domestic Workers* (2011) was adopted by a vote of 396 to 16, with 63 abstentions and the accompanying Recommendation by a vote of 434 to 8, with 42 abstentions. The ILO is the only tripartite organization of the UN. Two government delegates, one employer, and one worker delegate, with an independent vote, represent each of its 183 Member States.

The two standards will be the 189th Convention and the supplementing 201st Recommendation adopted by the Labor Organization since its creation in 1919. The *Convention* is an international treaty that is binding on Member States that ratify it. The *Recommendation* provides detailed guidance on how to apply the Convention.

The new ILO standards set out that domestic workers around the world who care for families and households, must have the same basic labor rights as those available to other workers: reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, as well as respect for fundamental principles and rights at work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

Recent ILO estimates based on national surveys and/or censuses of 117 countries, place the number of domestic workers at around 53 million. However, experts say that due to the fact that this kind of work is often hidden and unregistered, the total number of domestic workers could be as high as 100 million. In developing countries, they make up at least 4 to 12% of wage employment. Around 83% of these workers are women or girls and many are migrant workers.

The *Convention* defines domestic work as work performed in or for a household of households. While the new instruments cover all domestic workers, they provide for special measures to protect those workers who, because of their young age or nationality or live-in status, may be exposed to additional risks relative to their peers, among others.

In its introductory text, the new Convention says that “domestic work continues to be undervalued and invisible and is mainly carried out by women and girls, many of whom are migrants or members of disadvantaged communities and who are particularly vulnerable to discrimination in respect of conditions of employment and work, and to other abuses of human rights.”

“This is a truly major achievement,” said Manuela Tomei, Director of the ILO’s Conditions of Work and Employment Program, calling the new standards “robust, yet flexible.” Ms. Tomei added that the new standards make clear that “domestic workers are neither servants nor ‘members of the family’, but workers. And after today they can no longer be considered second-class workers.”

According to ILO proceedings, the new *Convention* will come into force after two countries have ratified it. (http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/100thSession/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_157891/lang--en/index.htm)

“We are moving the standards system of the ILO into the informal economy for the first time, and this is a breakthrough of great significance. Bringing the domestic workers into the fold of our values is a strong move, for them and for all workers who aspire to decent work, but it also has strong implications for migration and of course for gender equality. With this Convention, history is being made.” Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General
Consumer Beware!

American Clothing Brands Mute After Report On Abuses

In June 2011, the Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights (IGL) released an 82-page report entitled, ‘Sexual Predators and Serial Rapists Run Wild At Wal-Mart Supplier in Jordan’. Classic, the largest garment export factory in Jordan, sews clothing for Wal-Mart, Hanes, Kohl’s, Target and Macy’s. The garments enter the U.S. duty-free under the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement.

Workers from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Egypt earn a take-home wage of 61 cents an hour. The standard shift at Classic is 13 hours a day, six and seven days a week, with some 18 1/2 hour shifts just before the clothing is shipped to the U.S.

The workers are housed in primitive dorms lacking heat or hot water, but which are infested with bed bugs. The women have extremely limited freedom of movement and are allowed to leave the factory compound just one day a week for six hours. When they are forced to work through their weekly holiday, they may be allowed out just once or twice a month.

According to witness testimonies, workers are routinely cursed at, hit and shortchanged of their wages for failing to reach their mandatory production goals. To press the women to work faster, managers grope and fondle them. (See right hand col.)

As American companies have expanded their reach around the globe, riding free trade agreements to tap low-wage countries for goods, Jordan has emerged as a key supplier. In 2001, the U.S. finalized a free trade agreement with Jordan, lifting tariffs on a range of goods, including apparel. Five years later, exports from Jordan to the U.S. peaked at $1.2 billion, according to U.S. Department of Commerce data. Currently exports stand at $1.05 billion.

But as trade has burgeoned, so has scrutiny into the conditions confronted by the people making the goods. Guest workers from poor countries employed in the Middle East, and particularly in Jordan, have in recent years been at the center of the debate over whether labor has been treated fairly. Non-governmental organizations, as well as the International Labour Organization, the United Nation’s worker advocacy agency, have in recent years investigated working conditions in Jordan.

Many workers reported being mistreated by private recruitment agencies that bring workers from other countries and allegedly confiscate their passports, making it impossible for them to leave even in the face of violent abuse.

Better Work Jordan is an independent workplace monitoring organization, which receives funding from the U.S. government. Better Work did not respond to a request for comment about its inspections at Classic Brands. In 2011 Better Work Jordan evaluated 24 of the estimated 80 factories operating Jordan, including Classic Brands. Of these, 63% were found to have coerced workers, 29%.

Jordan Report cont. pg. 5

Sexual Abuses

(Excerpts from the Executive Summary of the Institute for Global Labor and Human Rights’ Report, June 2011)

According to witnesses who work at Classic Fashion, scores of young Sri Lankan women sewing clothing for Wal-Mart and Hanes have suffered routine sexual abuse and repeated rapes, and in some cases even torture.

One young rape victim at the Classic factory in Jordan told us her manager bit her, leaving scars all over her body. Women who become pregnant are forcibly deported and returned to Sri Lanka. Women who refuse the sexual advances of Classic’s managers are also beaten and deported.

On the weekly holiday the general manager, Anil Santha, (alleged to be a serial rapist) sends a van to bring four or five young women to his hotel, where he abuses them. The lives of the young Sri Lankan rape victims are completely shattered, since virginity is highly prized and critical for a good marriage in Sri Lanka.

In October 2010, 2,400 Sri Lankan and Indian workers went on strike demanding the removal of the alleged rapist. Classic’s owner sent him away, but he returned after one month.

Through the Institute/National Labor Committee’s reports, the Ministry of Labor has been made aware of the sexual abuse as early as 2007, but has done nothing.

The minimal efforts of Wal-Mart, Hanes and the other labels to monitor factory conditions at Classic have failed completely. Workers are threatened by management and forced to say that conditions are good. IGL strongly urged representatives of the labels to join on June 17, 2011 for a meeting with the Classic workers in Jordan.

It was IGL’s intention, along with the United Steelworkers and women’s rights colleagues in Sri Lanka, to rescue the women who have been victimized and return them safely home to their families. IGL expects Wal-Mart, Hanes and the other labels to pay significant compensation to the rape victims to restore some dignity to their lives. This is the least they can do.

The U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement has also failed over the last ten years to protect the basic rights of the 30,000 foreign guest workers sewing garments for export to the U.S.

One Bangladeshi worker recently deported from the Classic factory told IGL that all the workers of Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh will testify that Anil Santha raped the Sri Lankan women. “Everybody knows. In a safe place, the workers will testify.”
used bonded labor and 88% housed workers in conditions that were in some way deficient, according to the report. A detailed assessment of Classic Brands was made but not included in the online document.

Some trade experts characterized the allegations of work abuse at Classic Brands as extraordinary, and not indicative of the conditions where workers produce many of the goods that Americans buy through trade agreements. At the same time, experts admitted that workers in Jordan are particularly vulnerable to abuses because of limited protections for guest workers employed in the country under the terms of its free trade agreement with the U.S. The worker rights sections of the American free trade agreement with Jordan govern domestic employees, but extend little protection to so-called guest workers. In the years since the agreement came into force, most of the factories in Jordan have hired guest workers whose visas and work contracts restrict them from seeking jobs at other facilities in the country. That means a worker who is frightened, scared or disgusted by conditions at one factory is unlikely or unable to simply leave.

Jordan’s minimum wage laws also do not apply to migrant workers. Migrant workers and their employers are not treated as equals under Jordanian law. When the law is enforced, it is often in the employer’s favor. Many migrants assume that approaching the police to lodge a complaint against an employer is futile or could even make the situation worse, as employers are known to level false counter-accusations of theft that may result in migrants being detained.

As for the IGL Report, Hanes did not respond to requests for comment. Macy’s, Target, Kohl’s and Walmart issued brief statements in late July 2011, acknowledging the allegations and expressing concern while declining to answer questions.

“Nothing is going to really change until we get a law that keeps goods produced under these conditions out of U.S. consumers’ shopping carts,” said an IGL representative. “That’s when the companies will start to really care. Right now, we leave it all up to Walmart, which is absurd.”

(www.globallabourrights.org/press?id=0356)

CA Challenge cont. from pg. 3

less than 52 hours or earn less than $100 in the previous 90 days. The CDWBR would cover ALL domestic workers under California’s worker’s compensation laws.

• **Equal right to reporting time pay.** Personal attendants currently have no right to report time pay, when they show up to work and their employer cancels the job.

• **Equal right to notice before termination.** Domestic worker employers have no obligation to provide their worker advanced notice before terminating her services. Domestic workers are particularly vulnerable since when terminated, they often lose their job and home at the same time. The CDWBR would require at least twenty-one days advanced notice before termination or severance pay in lieu of notice.

• **Right to five hours uninterrupted sleep under adequate conditions.** No law currently guarantees domestic workers the right to uninterrupted sleep. Domestic workers often labor around the clock placing themselves and the people they care for at risk of sickness and unintentional mistakes caused by exhaustion.

• **Right to cook one’s own food.** Unlike most California workers, domestic workers are often confined to the home of their employer and are forced to eat food that is unhealthy or not to their liking. The CDWBR would grant domestic workers the right to make basic decisions regarding the type of food they eat.

• **Right to annual cost of living wage increase.** This would provide annual cost of living increases for domestic workers who cannot collectively bargain for this modest benefit in a notoriously low-paid industry.

• **Right to paid vacations.** In addition to caring for their employer’s family, domestic workers would also have time to care for their own loved ones.

• **Right to paid sick days.** This right not only benefits the domestic worker but also protects the health of employers and their family members.
‘Crimesolutions.gov’ Website Launched

The Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP) launched www.crimesolutions.gov in June 2011. This new website is a resource to inform practitioners and policymakers about what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. CrimeSolutions.gov is a searchable online database of evidence-based programs covering a range of justice-related topics, including corrections; courts; crime prevention; substance abuse; juveniles; law enforcement; technology and forensics; and victims.

The site includes information on more than 150 justice-related programs and assigns “evidence ratings” to indicate whether research shows that a program achieves its goals.

The new website is part of the Evidence Integration Initiative (E2I) launched in 2009. The E2I’s three goals are: improving the quantity and quality of evidence OJP generates; integrating evidence into program, practice and policy decisions in OJP; and improving the translation of evidence into practice.

OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. (http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2011/OJP11105.htm)

California Forges Ahead with Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation

Protecting Minors By Targeting ‘Demand’

The Abolition of Child Commerce, Exploitation and Sexual Slavery (ACCESS) Act of 2011 was signed into law in California in July 2011. The new law, originally sponsored by Assemblywoman Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda), treats a commercially sexually exploited minor as a victim, not as a prostitute. It targets ‘demand’ by requiring that a person, who is convicted of seeking to procure or procuring the sexual services of a prostitute, if the prostitute is under 18 years of age, be ordered to pay an additional fine not to exceed $25,000. (It had been $5,000.) These monies are to fund programs and services for commercially sexually exploited minors in the counties where the underlying offenses are committed. The predator would be dealt in the same way, regardless of whether that person is paying for the sexual services of the minor he or she is abusing.

Swanson stated, “This is a rescue mission to save some of our most vulnerable children. I am proud that our state is moving forward to protect a neglected population of child victims.” (http://www.tobiaclaro.com/2011/07/20/california-signs-child-exploitation-bill-into-law/)

CA ‘DREAM Act’ Becomes Law

In July 2011 California’s Governor Brown signed the California DREAM Act into law. AB 130 allows institutions of higher education to permit undocumented students to apply and compete for scholarships that are offered by these institutions and derived from private donations.

In addition, it allows students that are attending and graduating from California technical schools and adult schools to be eligible to qualify for in-state tuition under AB 540. AB 130 will minimize the current burden that many students face while attending institutions of higher education.

Higher education is a common good that provides significant benefits to individuals and to society as a whole. By reducing the financial burden that AB540 students face, this bill promotes individual responsibility by encouraging those who have been raised as Californians to become responsible, educated adults and productive members of the community by serving as teachers, doctors, and engineers in the workforce. (http://salsa.democracy-in-action.org/o/2119/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=7384)

Virginia: Greater Protections for Children

In May 2011 Virginia’s Governor McDonnell signed HB 1898, Abduction of Minors for Sexual Purposes, into law. HB 1898 improves protections for child sex trafficking victims by further criminalizing domestic minor sex trafficking, establishing evidentiary protections, and criminalizing actions of facilitators. The law provides that abduction of any person for the purpose of prostitution or of a minor for the purpose of manufacturing child pornography is a Class 2 felony. The law also provides that any person who receives any money or other valuable thing for or on account of causing any person to engage in forced labor or services, concubinage, prostitution, or the manufacture of any obscene material or child pornography is guilty of a Class 4 felony. (http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?111+sum+HB1898)
Hotels Enabled Child Trafficking

From 2006 to 2011, Crips gang members in San Diego, CA ran a child sex trafficking ring out of area hotels that destroyed the lives at least 16 girls.

An 18-month FBI investigation discovered that the gang was able to use two Wyndham-owned hotels (Travelodge and Howard Johnson) regularly for child prostitution with the knowledge and even assistance of staff.

The staff at a Howard Johnson in Escondido, CA refused to stop sex trafficking, while at the San Diego Travelodge, staff actively facilitated and profited from the sexual exploitation of children.

Travelodge staff knowingly reserved specific areas of the hotel for Crips gang members to use for child prostitution. Members of the staff allowed gang members to use the hotel computer to post online ads for sex with minors and agreed to warn the Crips if police were nearby. The gang was charged higher rates in exchange for staff cooperation.

In another case in late June 2011 an Alexandria, VA grand jury indicted a MS-13 gang member for selling sex with girls as young as 15 at another Wyndham property — a Super 8. Although Wyndham has a child protection policy, it obviously failed children — with more cases emerging.

After getting letters from nearly 14,000 Change.org members, Wyndham is now working with ECPAT-USA to implement the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children at their properties. Wyndham will become the third major U.S. hotel chain to sign the Code, joining Carlson Companies and Hilton Worldwide, the latter of which also joined after a Change.org campaign. Other Code signers include 945 companies across 37 countries.

Write to thank Stephen P. Holmes, Chairman & CEO of Wyndham for signing the Code. Contact is: Alyson R. Johnson, VP - Corporate Communications Wyndham Worldwide 22 Sylvan Way Parsippany, NJ 07054 (973) 753-6759 alyson.johnson@wyndhamworldwide.com

London Tourist Campaigns

London’s non-governmental organization ‘Stop the Traffik’ has two awareness campaigns aimed at: those working in the hospitality and transport industry; guests of hotels and travelers; and those vulnerable to trafficking. ‘Tips to Travel Safe’ and ‘Keep Others Safe’ identify ways to take appropriate action to prevent the trafficking of men, women and children.

‘Tips to Travel Safe’

• Contact the embassy of the country you are traveling to and ask what you need to live/work. If your employer tells you differently, trust your embassy.
• Memorize the helpline number.
• Leave a photocopy of your travel documents with someone you trust.
• Take a copy of your passport, keep it hidden.
• Don’t give your passport to your employer or the people organizing your trip.
• Before you start work, go for a walk to get to know your local area and find landmarks.
• Arrange to call someone within a week of leaving. If you do not call, they should call the helpline.

‘Keep Others Safe’

• A passenger who is unusually sleepy.
• A passenger who cannot access their passport.
• A passenger who looks drugged or excessively sleepy.
• A passenger who looks submissive/fearful of authorities.
• A passenger who is unusually drugged/bruised.
• A passenger who looksEvidence of human trafficking

‘Hidden Faces of the Gulf Miracle’


‘Ocean Sky’ Report


‘Stop the Traffik’ Campaigns

http://www.stopthetraffik.org/

Campaigns cont. ‘Keep Others Safe’

If you see a combination of these indicators, it may indicate someone is at risk:
• A child/young person travelling alone or with an unrelated adult/adults.
• A passenger who looks distressed and/or has signs of abuse (e.g. cigarette burns/bruises).
• A passenger who is unusually submissive/fearful of authorities.

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/index.html

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeanands2010@yahoo.com

Editing and Layout: Jean Schafer, SDS