



Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Economic & Commercial Office  
Washington

December 16, 2009

Ms. Leyla Strotkamp  
International Relations Officer  
Child labor, Forced labor & Human Trafficking  
US Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Re: Docket No. DOL-2009-0002

Dear Ms. Strotkamp,

With reference to our letter dated December 8, 2009 regarding the Federal Register Vol. 74, No. 175, dated Friday, September 11, 2009 and the **Notice of Initial Determination Updating the List of Products Requiring Federal Contractor Certification as to Forced/Indentured Child Labor Pursuant to Executive order No. 13126**, and further to the inclusion of Egypt in the list of goods produced by child labor or forced labor (cotton & limestone).

I am writing to inform you that we received a letter today from the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Migration with revised and updated comments. We would highly appreciate if you would kindly replace the previous comments with these updated ones (attached) as they have been extensively revised and modified.

Thank you for your kind assistance and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ashraf El Rabiey  
Minister Plenipotentiary & Head of the Office  
Economic & Commercial Office

Enclosure: 1

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2232 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Tel: (202) 265 – 9111; Fax: (202) 328 – 4517  
Email: comegyus@verizon.net; washington@tamseel-ecs.gov.eg

Vision of Ministry of Manpower and Migration about the American Department of Labor report 2008 related to the worst forms of child labor and the report of the department of labor's list of goods produced by child labor or forced labor.

- Concerning disfunctioning the laws of organizing child labor: - Labor Law no 12 for the year 2003 acts, related to child labor, has co-ordinated with international labor agreement no 138, which sets the minimum age for work after finishing the obligatory education, which not less than fifteen gears of age, and prohibiting child labor less than 18 years, in works that expose children health, safety and mortality to danger, and also with the international complementing agreement no 182 related to eliminating the worst forms of child labor, and ensuring the importance of the free basic education and rehabilitation working children and implementing them socially and finally declaration of the basic rights at work in year 1998 .
  - The international agreements states that it must be put into account the importance of national and regional privacy and different historical, cultural and religious aspects.
  - For home-service, the Islamic Sharia supported by the court judgment stated that home-service means "person who performs personal work related to his employer or family members in his house".  
The reason for excluding this category from the umbrella of labor law is due to the strong relations, especially between the employer and employee allowing the first to know the secrets and the privacy of his employee that. The Egyptian law puts two conditions for this exception:
    - 1 - place of work must be inside the house arranged for settlement.
    - 2- hand-work to meet needs of the employer and his family members.
- \* Concerning cotton Harvest: It is usually carried out with modern technology with respect to collecting cotton insects. It is usually happens in the agricultural societies for 15 days only, and rules by the governor decree.
- Concerning the cultivation, labor that refers to hand-works spreading seeds, collecting insects and harvest, usually using simple tools. So, the cause of exception is that it happens according to habits and customs in agricultural societies, where they used helping each other free of pay. In this context:
    1. Ministerial Decree no. 118 of 2003 was issued, its first article refers to that it is prohibited to employ children under the age of 18 in several occupations

and industries including the process of cotton compacting, processing and preparation, sowing, spraying of agricultural pesticides.

2. Agriculture Ministerial Decree no. 1454 on 12.4.2001 which refers in its first article banning hiring children under the age which was set by child law in all business that required preventive or remedial measures for plants.
3. Control systems have been established for monitoring and following-up of children working. Article 103 of labor law no. 12 of 2003 indicated exempting children in purely agriculture, from application of the provisions of the law which is related to child labor. However, after Egypt's ratification in 2003 of agreement 129 of 1969 regarding labor inspection in agriculture, it become necessary to implement terms and provisions of this agreement regarding inspection of the work of children working in agricultural enterprises, whether they are employees or trainees. Therefore, child labor inspectors in manpower and migration directorates, in all governorates inspect on children in agricultural enterprises as well as industrial facilities. In this context, these are the jobs:
  - Holding seminars educating the owners of agricultural business as well as workers, in collaboration with officials of the cooperative agricultural societies and guiders of this newly procedures.
  - Effectiveness of the provisions of law and sanctions for violators.
- The Ministry of Manpower and Migration is now preparing a study to modify some provisions of labor law 12 2003 related to the providing for required protection and welfare for the excepted categories.
- For the children working on fishing in some coastal territories helping their families, they work for limited periods in the inland water path, doesn't contradict with their schooling.
- In the field of forging, glass making and leather tanning, child labor was ended in these occupations, because of mechanical interference in production methods, using of modern technology.
- With regard to the work in the area of limestone, it was also developed, where there are now mechanical crushers, which led to the decline of child labor.

- The ministry is preparing a draft law for employment in the informal sector, that for extending the auspices of the law on this category and other categories.
- With regard to street children, this doesn't be considered as phenomenon in Egypt. In modifying the child law 126 for 2008, the legislator has set a criminal penalty on the ruler and thickens the penalties for those who charging the affairs of the child and left him without care.
- In Egypt, the so-called marriage of minors (to tourists) doesn't exist. The legislature treated this case by modifying articles for "new personal status law."