

Testimony of

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***Public Hearing to Collect Information to Assist in the Development of the List of Goods from
Countries Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor***

Thank you for the opportunity to present information regarding the use of child labor and forced labor worldwide in the production of goods.

My name is Thea Lee, and I am the Policy Director and Chief International Economist at the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). The labor movement has a long history of fighting a range of worker rights abuses on a global scale, including forced labor and child labor. We recognize that in today's global economy, with increased competition among countries to attract investment from corporations that are striving to cut production costs, forced labor and child labor continue to be a problem in many countries.

The Department of Labor's efforts to produce a list of goods produced by child labor or forced labor, mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Action of 2005, is an important step towards cataloguing the scope of the problem. It is only a first step, however. While some forced labor or child labor occurs under repressive regimes or as part of political conflict, much of the problem is a result of competitive pressures arising from accelerated global economic integration. Investment and sourcing/buying policies may actually encourage abusive labor practices, through, for example, the increased use of un- or under-regulated subcontractors and labor brokers as part of global supply chains, or the competition among countries to provide the cheapest labor force to potential investors.

As noted by Diana Holland, Chair of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Women's Committee, "subcontracted production and the sourcing of raw materials stretching easily into the informal economy provide entry points into global supply chains of forced labor that is harder to detect and harder to combat. Think for example of the current challenge faced by brands seeking to eliminate child labor from their garment supply chains in India when the cotton comes in large part from Uzbekistan [where there is well documented use of forced labor and child labor in the harvesting of cotton]."¹

The AFL-CIO concurs with the findings of organizations such as the Environmental Justice Foundation, International Crisis Group (ICG), Save the Children, Anti-Slavery International and the International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF) regarding the use of child labor and/or bonded child labor in the following countries and sectors: cotton picking and production in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, hybrid cottonseed production and granite mining in India, sugarcane cultivation and sugar refining in Nicaragua and Guatemala, tobacco cultivation in Malawi, and cocoa production in Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire. We would like to add to this list:

- Forced labor in charcoal production in Brazil, which is used to make pig iron, a basic ingredient in steel. Such pig iron is "purchased by brokers, sold to steelmakers and foundries and then purchased by some of the world's largest companies for use in cars, tractors, sinks and refrigerators made for U.S. consumers."²
- Child labor in export agriculture in Mexico. A recent Mexican government report funded by UNICEF estimates the number of agricultural laborers in Mexico at 3.1 million, of who 400,00-700,000 are children between 6 and 14.³ Examples abound of the abuse and exploitation of Mexican children in agriculture production. On January 6, 2007, David Salgado Aranda, a nine-year-old worker from Guerrero, was run over by a tractor while harvesting tomatoes on a farm owned by Agrícola Paredes in Sinaloa. The employer has argued that it is not liable for David's death because, according to the death certificate, the death occurred on a public road (this is contradicted by eyewitnesses). The employer offered about \$6,000 in compensation to the family.⁴ Agrícola Paredes is a major supplier of open field and greenhouse products for the North American market, growing 1,200 acres of open field vegetables, and 1,500 acres of corn, which it distributes through H.M. Distributors of Arizona,

and The Oppenheimer Group of British Columbia. Agrícola Paredes produces red, green and salad tomatoes, as well as eggplant and sweet bell peppers, under the Divemex, Chelita, SPV and Paris labels.⁵ The case of David Salgado is far from isolated. An investigation by three reporters for the Mexican newspaper *Excelsior*, Marcela Turati, Lucía Irabien, and Laura Toribio, found that 30 child laborers between the ages of 6 and 14 died in work-related accidents in the state of Sinaloa in 2006 and 2007.⁶ Other media investigations have documented the widespread existence of child labor in export agriculture.⁷ Recent research also describes exposure of child laborers to toxic pesticides in the tobacco industry.⁸

- Forced labor and child labor in shrimp processing in Thailand and Bangladesh.

In April of this year, the Solidarity Center, an allied organization of the AFL-CIO that promotes and protects worker rights in over 60 countries, issued a report entitled, “The True Cost of Shrimp,” in which it documented the abuse of workers in two countries that depend heavily on shrimp aquaculture exports, Thailand and Bangladesh.⁹ Along with arduous conditions such as long hours, low pay, abusive employers, informal work, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, the report also reveals significant instances of forced labor and child labor in shrimp processing plants. My testimony below highlights the major findings in the report, which I will submit in its entirety for the written record.

Technology has revolutionized the production and distribution of seafood. Today, highly perishable products such as shrimp can be farmed, processed, packed, and shipped worldwide in just a few days. Over the past 30 years, shrimp has become a \$13 billion global industry. Shrimp is now the most popular and widely traded seafood in the world. On average, Americans eat more than three pounds of shrimp each year; about 80 percent of that shrimp is imported. In 2006 alone, U.S. shrimp imports were valued at over \$4 billion, making shrimp the most valuable seafood import into the United States. Aquaculture, the practice of cultivating fish, shrimp, and other marine life in large man-made ponds, has helped to support the global shrimp export boom.

But this “shrimp boom” has entailed a staggering, largely hidden, cost to workers, their families, and their communities. The true cost of shrimp is far higher than what is visible on a supermarket price tag or a restaurant menu. And it is workers who pay the cost in abuses such as sweatshop conditions, employer intimidation, forced labor and child labor.

While Thailand is an established industry leader and Bangladesh is only beginning to grow its shrimp exporting industry, the Solidarity Center found startlingly similar problems at shrimp processing plants in both countries. Shrimp is Bangladesh’s second largest export in terms of dollar sales (second only to garment production). In 2005 Bangladesh sold an estimated 40 percent of its shrimp to the United States, 40 percent to the European Union, and the remainder to Japan.¹⁰ Bangladesh is among the world’s top ten producers of shrimp. In 2006, Bangladesh shrimp exports to the United States totaled almost \$200 million.¹¹ Shrimp processing in Bangladesh is largely concentrated in two general areas: the cities of Chittagong and Cox’s Bazaar, and the districts of Khulna, Satkhira, and Bagerhat.

A number of organizations have identified extensive worker and human rights abuses in Bangladesh’s shrimp industry. Reports from organizations such as the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) have identified land grabbing, the use of child and forced labor, and reduced local access to land, water, and other resources as key abuses.¹² Many international NGOs and development agencies remain rightly concerned about the impact of the shrimp trade on local communities and about issues like food safety and environmental preservation. Labor exploitation and defending worker rights, however, have not been primary concerns for those interested in the industry’s long-term sustainability.

In Bangladesh, women workers are particularly at risk, with no formal contracts and low pay. Pushed by poverty into the workplace, but without access to adequate health care, women workers suffer from illness and repetitive strain. Without childcare resources, they must often bring their children to work, and so the children work as well.

A pressing concern about the Bangladesh shrimp industry is its dependence on child labor. Child labor remains a common fact of life in many shrimp processing plants, where it is tightly linked to social and economic pressure on women workers. Eyewitness accounts from lawyers helping shrimp workers seek redress for labor law violations report that children (defined in Bangladesh as persons under the age of 14) are often involved in loading finished products onto trucks at processing plants. These children do not appear on company employee lists, because subcontractors employ them. Children between 14 and 17 are also members of the workforce. While it is legal to employ these older children under Bangladesh's national labor laws, they are allowed to work only a restricted number of hours a day and are not permitted to do hazardous work. However, none of the 20 factories observed by researchers obeyed the important legal prohibition of unsafe work for children under 17.

Thailand is the established leader in the global shrimp trade. Roughly one-third of U.S. shrimp imports come from Thailand. Shrimp exporting is estimated to be a \$2 billion-a-year business, accounting for roughly 2 percent of Thai GDP, which makes it Thailand's third largest source of export revenue. It is estimated that over 40 percent of Thailand's shrimp are processed in the province of Samut Sakhon. Northern Gulf of Thailand ports remain the most important for shrimp fishing and processing.

Several investigative reports have uncovered significant cases of child labor and forced labor throughout the Thai fishing and seafood processing sectors. A 2006 report coauthored by the ILO and researchers from Thailand's Mahidol University "found child labor, excessive work hours, and forced labor to be the norm in seafood processing plants."¹³ Roughly 19 percent of the migrant workers in processing plants interviewed for the report were under 15 years of age, while another 22 percent were between 15 and 17. The persistence of child labor in Thailand's shrimp and seafood sector was further supported by a 2006 study of child labor in Samut Sakhon, led by the Asian Research Center for Migration in cooperation with the Labor Rights Promotion Network (LPN), a Solidarity Center partner organization. The report estimated that 20,000 children under the age of 18 are working in the province. Just under half of these children work in "fisheries-related" jobs that include peeling shrimp, transferring heavy loads, and drying, boiling, and shelling various types of seafood.¹⁴

Since 2005, the Solidarity Center and its partner organizations have conducted interviews with shrimp processing workers, mainly in Samut Sakhon. The interviews identified 15 Thai factories in the region with substandard working conditions. All of these factories export some percentage of their products to the United States.

The case of the Ranya Paew shrimp processing factory in Samut Sakhon provides an illustration of the problems of forced labor and child labor in the industry. Here is a description of the case from the Solidarity Center report:

On September 16, 2006, Thai police and immigration authorities raided the Ranya Paew shrimp processing factory in Samut Sakhon. Working off a tip, police conducted the raid expecting to note a few labor law violations and perhaps round up some undocumented migrant workers. Ranya Paew was more like a fortress than a factory, with 16-foot-high barbed-wire capped walls, an armed guard force, and an extensive internal closed-circuit television system.¹⁵ Behind the walls, the police found a scene that one report described as "little short of medieval," with hundreds of workers literally trapped inside the compound, living in squalid conditions, forced to work long hours, and subjected to

physical, emotional, and sexual intimidation and abuse.¹⁶ Workers who angered the employer were often “put to shame” in front of others by having their hair cut or shaved in patches. Women and girls were stripped naked and publicly beaten as a form of discipline.¹⁷

Most of the workers at Ranya Paew were Burmese migrants who relayed shocking stories about life inside the factory. They told of 16- to 20-hour shifts, filthy conditions, low pay, and forced labor. Police investigators learned that managers demanded months of unpaid work to meet debts to labor agents, or to pay for basic safety equipment, housing, even food and medicine. One worker noted that she worked for three months without pay and even then received only 200 baht (\$5.60) the fourth month, after 500 baht (\$14.10) was deducted from her wages to pay her labor agent’s fee and to cover meals, housing, and safety equipment. She claims she peeled 18-20 kg (about 40 pounds) of shrimp per day.¹⁸

Other workers said that if they made a mistake on the shrimp peeling line, asked for sick leave, or tried to escape, they could expect to be beaten, sexually molested, or publicly tortured. After interviewing more than 280 workers, police took 63 women and three men to a shelter, suspecting that they had been trafficked and/or forced to work against their will. [At the time of the raid, the protection provisions of Thai law did not include males in the definition of trafficking victims]. Another 22 were deported; nearly 80 returned to work at the factory, which remains in operation. Despite widespread worker rights abuses, including child labor and human trafficking, the owner was charged only with employing children under 15 and failing to provide holidays and time off. Though these charges are serious, they were treated as first-time labor code violations. The owner initially only paid a fine of about \$2,100 and has returned to work.

The abuses documented at Ranya Paew are further evidence of the problems worker rights advocates have noted for some time. In addition to long hours, forced labor, and child labor, Ranya Paew opened the lid on many hidden yet systemic worker rights problems of the Thai shrimp industry:

- widespread abuse of migrant workers;
- powerful labor brokers who abet human trafficking and other abuses; and
- extensive subcontracting and outsourcing, which encourages lower workplace standards and wages.

While the Ranya Paew case was from 2006, the types of abuse against Burmese migrant workers found in the shrimp factory continues today. On March 10, 2008, Thai authorities raided a shrimp processing factory in the Mahachai Township of Central Thailand. NGO activists that participated in the raid with police noted, “The factory was like a jail, the barracks where the workers lived was locked from the outside . . . Children were standing on the baskets to work in prawn processing, they are only ten years old. The workers said that they only earned 200 baht a week. The brokers that brought them took the rest of the money.”¹⁹

These cases highlight the widespread system of factory outsourcing, whereby subcontracted firms can easily exploit workers beyond the view of authorities or certification regimes. While about a dozen Thai agribusiness giants financially dominate the overall shrimp industry, the structure of shrimp processing resembles similar production models in the footwear and garment industry — with much of the labor-intensive work contracted out to small independent firms that can quickly produce or process a high volume of shrimp.

Subcontracted factories like Ranya Paew operate on the margin of the regulated formal economy. Orders are short-term, profits are tight, and downward pressure on costs is passed down to workers in the form of long hours, low pay, and lax health and safety standards. Subcontractors may operate in their own factories or even on the premises of a larger, formal operation. Workers at a Samut Sakhon plant owned by a major Thai seafood company reported that of the 5,000 workers inside the factory, subcontractors technically employed 80 percent. Such widespread use of subcontracting and labor agents has led to gradual informalization of labor relations. The result is a system that allows companies to hide real wage levels, skirt responsibilities, and in places like Ranya Paew, commit egregious worker violations like forced labor, debt bondage, and human trafficking.

Migrant workers, from Burma, Cambodia and Laos, perform much of the labor-intensive work in Thailand's shrimp processing plants. The working conditions of migrant workers in Thailand's shrimp processing industry represent the worst forms of abuse. The sustained shrimp boom has increased demand for workers on farms, in boats, and in the processing factories.

Since 1992, a despotic and violent military regime has torn apart the social and economic fabric of Burma, forcing millions to seek work or refuge elsewhere. An estimated 3 million Burmese migrants live and work in Thailand's low-wage, mostly informal sectors such as domestic service, construction, agriculture, fishing, and seafood processing.²⁰ The industrial clusters of shrimp processing factories in Samut Sakhon host about 200,000 Burmese migrants; only about one-third have proper identity and travel documents.²¹

A web of Thai and Burmese labor brokers, complicit authorities, and employers abet a sophisticated system of bribery and migrant worker smuggling in Thailand. A recent UN-sponsored report on the role of labor brokers concluded, "[T]here is systematic and institutional exploitation of Burmese migrants in Samut Sakhon and neighboring provinces, often through debt bondage and exploitation without accountability through subcontracting."²²

Debt bondage is a key method of exploiting migrant workers. Having agreed to pay excessive fees to the agents who smuggle them over the border and/or to the brokers who find them a job, workers are forced to meet their debt through payroll deductions or unpaid labor. This predicament makes migrant workers vulnerable to further extortion and even forced labor for months or years before they can earn any extra money to support their families.

Another way in which employers and labor brokers exploit migrant workers is by controlling their movement, often by depriving them of official documentation. Even those with proper documents regularly have their paperwork taken from them by labor brokers to keep them from leaving or searching for a better job. Deprived of personal identification and travel documents, without social support structures, and deep in debt, migrant workers can be easily manipulated into staying put and performing hazardous and exploitative work. In fact, recent studies found that many Thai employers favor restricting migrant workers' freedom of movement and/or providing fewer social services to migrants than to native Thai workers.²³

While my testimony today has focused on the shrimp industry in Thailand and Bangladesh, similar problems of forced labor and child labor occur in the shrimp industry around the world, including in Vietnam, Indonesia, Ecuador, and China. As I discussed earlier in my testimony, the nature of the shrimp supply chain exacerbates the problem of forced labor and child labor. Processing companies receive raw shrimp from farms or fishing boats. These businesses prepare and move processed shrimp along the value chain to importers. Most processing companies operate in a highly fragmented global market, with thousands of primary processors receiving raw shrimp and conducting initial work such as deheading, peeling, and de-veining. Secondary processing plants convert prepared shrimp into a more

marketable product through cooking, packaging, and other preparations.²⁴ (Initial and secondary processing often take place in separate facilities, though some larger factories do both.) All processing plants are labor-intensive. Many are small operations that take orders from larger firms to process shrimp quickly under tight deadlines.

Importers commonly assemble large orders of shrimp from processing companies (or exporting middlemen) and sell to distributors, food service operators, and other retail outlets. With strong international links and industry ties, importers are major “gatekeepers” in the supply chain. Importers seek out processors that can meet orders quickly, and they wield tremendous power over processors in shrimp-producing countries. In the import markets, most distribution and retail companies prefer to rely on importers to assume the risk of buying and delivering shrimp within their specific price and quality guidelines.²⁵

At the end of the chain are the retail outlets — food service distributors, grocery stores, and restaurants that supply and sell the finished product to other outlets or directly to consumers. Consumers are familiar with supermarkets and major retailers like Wal-Mart, the fastest growing seafood retailer in the United States. Also well known are restaurants like Red Lobster, Darden’s 650-location flagship chain, the largest single seller of seafood in the United States. Sysco Corporation, the largest U.S. food service company, purchases more than \$1 billion worth of seafood annually and is a key distributor of shrimp products to restaurants and institutions such as schools and hospitals.²⁶

As a commodity, the price of shrimp fluctuates according to supply and demand, and price pressure is significant at every stage of the supply chain. Retailers, sensitive to the risk involved with importing fresh food, press import companies for faster distribution, acceptable quality, and the lowest prices. Importers, aware that market fluctuations can affect prices, leverage their bulk purchasing power to demand speedy delivery from producers. Trapped between producers and importers are labor-intensive shrimp factories. Often, the factories’ response to price pressure is to squeeze wages, neglect workplace health and safety regulations, and cut other corners that leave shrimp workers bearing the social cost of affordable shrimp.

The role of labor brokers in the supply chain is also a major factor in increasing the vulnerability of workers to abuse. Labor brokers play an instrumental role in moving workers into jobs in shrimp processing and played a big part in placing workers into Ranya Paew. Recent interviews with shrimp workers also reveal that these labor brokers have increasing influence as a result of the trend toward subcontracting and informal labor relations in the industry. In these instances, brokers agree to provide wages, housing, and registration services for migrant workers. They even agree to handle workplace problems — allowing employers to avoid legal obligations to employees (and to the employment related provisions of any certification programs they may have joined). Factory owners pay the brokers, who are then responsible for paying workers. In most cases, however, the brokers keep a portion of the wages. Often, the brokers fail to arrange proper immigration registration in order to use the migrants’ irregular legal status to extort more money, control their movement, and force them to work. If authorities investigate, employers can simply deny responsibility, blaming the brokers, who in turn hand over the “illegals” for deportation. If caught by police, migrant workers face an extended period of time in Thai deportation centers, along with a return to certain poverty and possible imprisonment or torture in Burma.

Governments and industry groups have failed to respond to the problem with adequate measures in the area of labor law enforcement and workplace standards. Under increased media and consumer scrutiny, the abuse of workers in shrimp processing and other food sectors requires an adequate response beyond unenforced regulations or unenforceable industry codes of conduct.

Information on government, industry or third-party actions and initiatives to address these problems:

As noted by the ILO, “Where labor standards are rigorously adhered to, workers are well unionized and labor laws are monitored and enforced—for all workers, indigenous or migrant—the demand for trafficked people and services is likely to be low.” One of the main factors in the prevention of forced labor, child labor and human trafficking for labor exploitation is adherence to the core ILO labor standards, including the freedom of association and right to organize, for all workers whether migrant or indigenous, temporary or permanent.

Initiatives to combat forced labor and child labor must of course be implemented through partnerships between governments, companies and employers, trade unions and other civil society organizations. As noted by the ITUC, “governments and employers must recognize that effective recognition and protection of the right to organize is an indispensable weapon in the struggle.”²⁷ In turn, trade unions must assert their crucial role in promoting the rights of workers, including migrant workers and the most vulnerable, such as children. Effective measures to end forced labor and child labor should include commitments by brands, buyers, and retailers to pressure governments to increase worker protections and improve conditions of work when violations of labor standards are found in the supply chains, instead of simply moving business elsewhere.

There are numerous examples of effective trade union initiatives to fight forced labor and child labor. For example, the ITUC is partnering with unions in labor sending and destination countries to develop bilateral agreements aimed at protecting migrant worker rights and reducing their vulnerability to trafficking. It is also working with these unions to develop migrant centers that provide information to migrant workers to prevent exploitation and offer support to abused workers. The ITUC is embarking on a new initiative to develop a Global Trade Union Alliance to Combat Forced Labor and Human Trafficking, and is currently implementing a two-year (2008-2010) plan of action on the issue.²⁸

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a Florida community-based worker organization is conducting an Anti-Slavery Campaign, which is a worker-based approach to eliminating modern-day slavery in the agricultural industry. The CIW “helps fight this crime by uncovering, investigating, and assisting in the federal prosecution of slavery rings preying on hundreds of farm workers. In such situations, captive workers are held against their will by their employers through threats and, all too often, the actual use of violence -- including beatings, shootings, and pistol-whippings. In the most recent case to be brought to court, a federal grand jury indicted six people in Immokalee on January 17th, 2008, for their part in what US Attorney Doug Molloy called “*slavery, plain and simple*” (Ft. Myers News-Press, “Group accused of keeping, beating, stealing from Immokalee laborers,” 1/18/08). The employers were charged with beating workers who were unwilling to work or who attempted to leave their employ picking tomatoes, holding their workers in debt, and chaining and locking workers inside u-haul trucks as punishment (“How about a side order of human rights,” Miami Herald, 12/16/07). . . The Anti-Slavery Campaign has resulted in freedom for more than a thousand tomato and orange pickers held in debt bondage, historic sentences for various agricultural employers, the development of a successful model of community-government cooperation, and the growth of an expanding base of aware and committed worker activists. The CIW employs a unique combination of outreach, investigation, and worker-to-worker counseling in order to combat already-existing slavery operations case-by-case.”²⁹

Similarly, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), AFL-CIO, which organizes and supports migrant workers in the U.S. agricultural industry, is another good example of preventing forced labor and child labor in U.S. agriculture by advancing worker rights through organizing and collective bargaining for migrant workers. Migrant farm workers in the United States and Mexico created FLOC in response to severe worker rights abuses, including conditions of forced and child labor. In 2004 FLOC helped Mexican migrant farm workers win a historic first union contract covering more than 1,000 farms

throughout North Carolina. The groundbreaking contract between FLOC and the North Carolina Growers Association gave 8,500 seasonal workers from Mexico a voice on the job. The contract—the first ever signed by farmers in North Carolina—also allows FLOC to recruit and hire the Mexican workers, ensuring their safety and their legal ability to work in the United States. In less than four years, conditions for FLOC workers have changed dramatically. Wages are higher, and housing conditions are much better. Most important, the migrant farm workers have a direct voice in their conditions through a national labor union and an effective process for resolving grievances and problems.³⁰

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers, FLOC, and other worker initiatives based on the freedom of association and the right to organize from around the world, share the view of the AFL-CIO regarding one of the most important tools in the fight against forced labor, child labor and human trafficking: the role of multi-national corporations, buyers, and retailers in leveraging their immense resources and market influence to ensure that their supply chains are free of worker exploitation, and that the core ILO labor standards, including the freedom of association and freedom from discrimination, are adhered to.

¹ Diana Holland, “Is there slavery and forced labour in your supply chain?” Notes for a speech at the Anti-Slavery Conference: “The challenges in contemporary forms of slavery and forced labor in the international supply chain: mitigating risk, promoting abolition,” p. 3.

² Michael Smith and David Voreacos, “The Secret World of Modern Slavery,” Bloomberg.com, December 2006, http://www.bloomberg.com/news/marketsmag/modern_slavery1.html.

³ SEDESOL/UNICEF, Diagnóstico sobre la condición social de las niñas y niños migrantes internos, hijos de jornaleros agrícolas (2006), pp. 9, 77.

⁴ <http://www.tlachinollan.org/english/cases/David%20salgado/david.htm>

⁵ http://www.tlachinollan.org/english/notbp/notbp070314_win.htm

⁶ “Cosecha de dolor y esperanza,” *Excelsior*, 14 October 2007

⁷ E.g., Sagrario Tapia and Ramón García, “Obliga a niños la necesidad,” *El Imparcial*, 30 January 2006.

⁸ J. Gamlin, P. Diaz Romo and T. Hesketh “Exposure of young children working on Mexican tobacco plantations to organophosphorous and carbamic pesticides, indicated by cholinesterase depression,” *Child: care, health and development*, 33, 3, 246–248 (2007).

⁹ The full report is available for download at: http://www.solidaritycenter.org/files/pubs_True_Cost_of_Shrimp.pdf

¹⁰ Afzal Khan, “Bangladesh Shrimp Exports Poised to Soar with U.S. Assistance,” U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs, Washington File, August 10, 2005.

¹¹ Statistics based on online data from the NMFS, Fisheries Statistics Division, <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>.

¹² Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), *Desert in the Delta: A Report on the Environmental, Human Rights and Social Impacts of Shrimp Production in Bangladesh*, (London, UK: EJF, 2004), p. 4-7;

¹³ International Labor Organization (ILO), Mekong Sub-regional Project to Combat Trafficking in Children and Women. *The Mekong Challenge: Underpaid, Overworked and Overlooked, the Realities of Young Migrant Workers in Thailand* (Bangkok, Thailand: ILO 2006), vol. 1, pp. 7-9, <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/child/trafficking/downloads/underpaid-eng-volume1.pdf>.

¹⁴ Asian Research Center for Migration, *Assessing the Situation of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Samutsakhon* (Bangkok, Thailand: ARCM, 2006), p.1, 3-5, <http://www.arcm.ias.chula.ac.th/Downloads/Abstract/B31-AE.pdf>.

¹⁵ Ed Copley, “Child Laborers Toil in Thai Seafood Factories,” Reuters, April 25, 2007.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ Information based on interviews with Ranya Paew workers conducted by Solidarity Center partner organizations.

¹⁸ Unpublished case report provided to the Solidarity Center by the UN Inter-Agency Trafficking Coordination Program (UNIAP) Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, June 19, 2007. The highlighted story is an example of debt bondage that rises to the level of human trafficking. Debt bondage, also known as bonded labor, is defined as demanding a person’s labor as a means of repayment for a loan or other form of debt.

¹⁹ See <http://asiacalling.kbr68h.com/index.php/archives/1367>.

²⁰ Amnesty International, “Thailand: The Plight of Burmese Migrant Workers,” (Amnesty International, June 2005), p. 1, [http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ASA390012005ENGLISH/\\$File/ASA3900105.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ASA390012005ENGLISH/$File/ASA3900105.pdf).

²¹ UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), Strategic Information Response Network (SIREN): Phase III, *From Facilitation to Trafficking: Labor Recruitment in Samut Sakhon, Thailand* (Bangkok, Thailand: UNIAP, May 2007), p. 3.

²² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²³ Penchan Charoensuthipan, “More companies using child labour,” *Bangkok Post*, December 21, 2006; ILO, *Mekong Challenge*, p. 44.

²⁴ The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, *Mapping global fisheries and seafood sectors*, (Los Altos, CA: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, 2007), p. 90.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 94.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 102.

²⁷ Diana Holland, “Is there slavery and forced labour in your supply chain?” Notes for a speech at the Anti-Slavery Conference: “The challenges in contemporary forms of slavery and forced labor in the international supply chain: mitigating risk, promoting abolition,” p. 2.

²⁸ For more information see ITUC web pages on migrant workers forced labor: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique159>; and <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique158>.

²⁹ <http://www.ciw-online.org/slavery.html>

³⁰ See Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO web page, <http://www.floc.com/>.