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Author

Topic: Slavery For Sweets

Pjean63
Buccaneer

Posts: 703
From: Towanda, Kansas,USA
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 25 June 2001 04:47 PM



profile



mail



edit



quote

I just read an article in our local newspaper about how 43% of the worlds cocoa beans come from small farms in the Ivory Coast. Much of the work is being done by boys between the ages of 12 and 16, some as young as 9. These children have been sold into slavery and purchased by the cocoa farmers for as little as \$35 dollars. The expose suggested that people write the Chocolate manufacturers in the U.S. and express their displeasure at these business practices, because the big Chocolate companies are buying this product from the Ivory Coast farmers. What are your opinions? Should the big chocolate corporations be made responsible for the way their product is made available to them? According to the article, coffee and cotton are being harvested by slave labor there too. Will Americans stop buying chocolate, coffee, and cottonproducts if they knew where it specifically came from? Or are we too complacent in knowing it" happened over there, and what can we do about it" , and just give the big shoulder shrug.Your opinions?

IP: [Logged](#)

sandy interrante
Buccaneer

Posts: 426
From: chicago, il 60618 USA
Registered: May 2000



posted 25 June 2001 08:40 PM



profile



mail



edit



quote

It's sad that young boys are used to harvest products for production in the US, but I doubt that it will have much effect. In these countries, although young boys are being exploited, it means work, work without an education. We tend to judge other countries by our standards where children have to be at least 16 to work. Perhaps their families depend on their working to get by. Unfortunately, they know no other way than to work hard in a field. At least they are contributing to honest labor for wages. I don't think we should upset their economic system.

IP: [Logged](#)

maryals
Swashbuckler

Posts: 1653
From: anchorage, Alaska, USA
Registered: Sep 2000



posted 25 June 2001 09:40 PM



profile



mail



edit



quote

Give up our coffee, chocolate and cotton? Not on yer life.

>

HoooBoy Sandy yer gonna be in fer it....well what the heck I'll come right out and say I agree with you...cuz I do.

>

And we won't "change for the better" the economic system of many of these countries because the "economic system" is so deeply entwined with their culture.

>

Atheletes know that Nike's and other top shoes are made by slave labor.....are these athletes gonna give up multi-million dollar spokesperson fees? Not on yer life!!

>

It's an imperfect World...I'm not sayin' don't be an Idealist....we need you PollyAnna's and Do-Gooders....we really do....someday you'll win.

How much more will the Ents endure? maryals

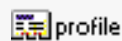
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Ninerism
Swashbuckler

Posts: 1632
From: Los Angeles, CA., U.S.
Registered: Oct 2000



posted 25 June 2001 09:41 PM



PJean63, Sandy Interrante and Readers: The title of a book comes to mind, after reading your postings, 'CRY OF THE PEOPLE' by Penny Larnoux (name? spell?), perhaps published in the 1970's, am not quite certain, though it exposes stuff, perhaps about American Can Company, or other large corporations, that participate and know what is happening in those nations which exploit child labour, too. It is shameful, and just as a woman was excoriated not long ago on Regis Philbin shows, Kathy Rigby or someone with a similar name, it is high-time that these other sorts of crimes got published, as certainly any sensible person knows that sweat-shop labour using children does not start and stop at sewing machines and clothing manufacturers plants!

Yes, in my opinion, these sorts of outrageous crimes need to be exposed -- why isn't that what the leaders of NAFTA and GATT proclaim to American citizens that they are spreading democracy to foreign lands as corporations become the leaders of the NEW ORDER.....?!

Ninerism

IP: [Logged](#)

PJean63
Buccaneer

Posts: 703
From: Towanda, Kansas,USA
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 26 June 2001 06:33 AM



You guys misunderstood me, these kids are not child labor, they are SLAVES. They were purchased by the farmer, they are not being paid a wage and often are beaten(so severely they have scars to prove it) Im not talking about young boys 16 and above that financially seek to support their families and go to work to earn a wage. These are children who are locked in a shed at night, and if they try to run away are severely punished by whippings.

it isnt just a matter of upsetting their system because of a whim, it is about human dignity and rights. Except of course it is in another country, not the U.S. 200 years ago, so I guess it is inconsequential. I think that it is shameful that the UN human rights commitee is looking the other way, but there too, the only time the UN motivates itself to do anything is when it involves the United States. I guess I just find the hypocrisy about the slavery issue unbearable.

IP: [Logged](#)

Cherry Kelly
Swashbuckler

Posts: 3452
From: Belton, MO USA
Registered: Jul 2000



posted 26 June 2001 09:28 AM



profile



mail



edit



quote

I read the article about slaves and cocoa - but how many people in this country know that there are SLAVES right here in the USA? Young foreign women sold into slavery for pornographic purposes - sex slaves. Not only them but entire families sold into slavery - oh they call it bondage - to work in factories and small shops for less than minimum wage until their cost of bringing them here is paid off - which it never is -- supposedly their families back home receive some funds - but do they? not too likely.

The situation with slavery is that many third world countries have an "excess" of children - so 'selling' off a child to gain money to feed the rest is fairly common. Disgusting but it happens.

IP: [Logged](#)

maryals
Swashbuckler

Posts: 1653
From: anchorage, Alaska, USA
Registered: Sep 2000



posted 27 June 2001 12:34 AM



profile



mail



edit



quote

I understood you Pjean63. Slavery is an entrenched part of the culture of many African Cultures. I'm not excusing it, just letting Idealists like you know what you're up against.

>

But keep up the good work, keep trying to enlighten your Fellow Citizens.

>

Sorry to sound like a broken record, but this is yet another thing Chuck Harder, on his radio program "For the People" tried to warn about, and he was called a wacko....

How much more will the Ents endure? maryals

IP: [Logged](#)

Pjean63
Buccaneer

Posts: 703
From: Towanda, Kansas,USA
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 27 June 2001 06:54 AM



profile



mail



edit



quote

Oh, okay..I didn't know if you caught the part that they were being bought and sold, not hired. Yes, if believing that small children shouldn't be beaten into submission, and be made to carry bags of cocoa beans that weigh more than they do all day long is idealism...I guess I would be an Idealist.I thought it just made me a rational American, after all, aren't we the ones who fought and died over this issue(amongst others)? But as I stated before , I guess abhorance of slavery only applies if it happens here.

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<p>Cherry Kelly Swashbuckler</p> <p>Posts: 3452 From: Belton, MO USA Registered: Jul 2000</p>	<p> posted 27 June 2001 08:07 AM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Pjean -- most Americans in today's society have little if any real knowledge about what slavery is all about.</p> <p>The other question is what can we as Americans do about it? Answer - not much - we can sanction, we can boycott, we can -- but who wants to give up their chocolate?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>Ninerism Swashbuckler</p> <p>Posts: 1632 From: Los Angeles, CA., U.S. Registered: Oct 2000</p>	<p> posted 27 June 2001 09:31 AM profile edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Pjean63: Oh, God, yes, I did misunderstand your posting! How horrible, and why isn't the glorified NAFTA and GATT and United Nations getting this stuff abolished, as in 'yesterday'! NAFTA must know about those child-slavery abuses!</p> <p>Ninerism</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>Ninerism Swashbuckler</p> <p>Posts: 1632 From: Los Angeles, CA., U.S. Registered: Oct 2000</p>	<p> posted 27 June 2001 09:33 AM profile edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Pjean63 and Readers: This would be a topic for IAN PUNNETT or ART BELL show, so that this madness is nationally published SOON so that people get real angry and get this stuff abolished.</p> <p>Ninerism</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>alaskandevil Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 349 From: Kenai, Alaska Registered: Nov 2000</p>	<p> posted 27 June 2001 03:56 PM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Pjean63.....do you really wear rose colored glasses?</p> <p>The biggest problem we americans have is that (like others have all ready stated) we project our morals, our reasons upon the rest of the world.</p> <p>We want to rid the world of all things bad but stop and look at what we have really done.</p> <p>Slavery in Africa is normal in certain areas yet how many Afican governments are screaming about thier neighbor countries are really slavers??</p> <p>what about other countries like Thailand, Phillippines, etc. where children and adults are sold off to help thier families?</p> <p>How many kids in foreign countries work as prostitutes just to eat?</p> <p>Hell we cant even begin to take care of OURSELVES let alone help the world.</p> <p>----- "We are the people your parents warned you about" J. Buffett</p>

G8R
Buccaneer

Posts: 604
From: 46.8, -121.7
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 27 June 2001 06:01 PM



quote:

Originally posted by Cherry Kelly:

I read the article about slaves and cocoa - but how many people in this country know that there are SLAVES right here in the USA?

So true, ten years ago I was a repair tech. in Los Angles and I would go to many businesses and let me tell you Slavery is alive in the U. S. and will remain so as long as Corporate interests run this country... 99.999% of the people will not and do not want to see it. Just as long as they can get the goods they're wanting, they're happy, anyone smell the coffee?

IP: [Logged](#)

Pjean63
Buccaneer

Posts: 703
From: Towanda, Kansas,USA
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 27 June 2001 09:30 PM



Alaskandevil..rose colored glasses...not since the advent of contacts, besides have you ever looked thru rose tinted

glasses?? The sky looks purple fer godsakes!! 😊

G8R...

Yes!! My point about corporate interests ruling the way our government deals with other nations....

Look , I'm not naive, I completely understand the futility of trying to do anything about this henous business...I for one am as guilty as the next person about not wanting to give up chocolate or coffee or blue jeans...but we condemn countries out of hand on one field of human rights yet ignore others...it is sickening! I was just shocked to actually read about it in the paper as this sordid stuff is usually politely ignored.

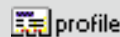
IP: [Logged](#)

Cherry Kelly
Swashbuckler

Posts: 3452
From: Belton, MO USA
Registered: Jul 2000



posted 28 June 2001 08:45 AM



Pjean - indeed it is a bit more unusual to read about this kind of stuff in the newspaper - we have had such a stinted media for so long we have forgotten about REAL news from other places.

Take the MO independent truck driver who is in prison for having a load of marijuana in some goods he was transporting. (Ya this should go in drug wars area but its pointing out news being told.) His truck was confiscated and sold, he was locked up and is in jail - even though he cooperated fully with the law providing all information about where the load came from - where it was going - complete with names and addresses. BTW none of the people are in jail or even been picked up for it. He had no idea what was in the equipment he was delivering. He just picked up the load to be delivered as many other independent drivers do. It was a large piece of equipment - but inside was several thousand lbs of marijuana. A few years ago we would never have heard about this guy - yet this story is several years old! Can we say newspapers are NOW giving us some real news??

- - -

We all have a tendency to judge other countries and cultures by our own standards. After all - we came FROM many of those places ourselves. We have changed, but they are still caught up and locked into their own cultural concepts. NAFTA, GATT, UN are all looking the other way - non-interference as long as it doesn't cross border lines. UNLESS of course its the USA - then NAFTA and GATT will yell like crazy!

IP: [Logged](#)

Pjean63
Buccaneer

Posts: 703
From: Towanda, Kansas,USA
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 06 August 2001 06:56 AM



[profile](#)



[mail](#)



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[quote](#)

I read in the Sunday Wichita paper that the House passed a labeling initiative 291-115, and are waiting for the Senate to take action on it. The purpose of the initiative is to force the chocolate industry to police their product, and make certain they are not buying cocoa from child labour farms. They estimated that there are as many as 15,000 child slaves working on these farms. It was reported that initially the chocolate industry denied that the child slavery even existed but now are admitting it occurs and they are trying to find out how widespread it is. 😊 Their lobbists are fighting not to have to put the slave free label on their chocolate. Evidently, I'm not such an idealist as formerly believed, this has made it into Congress.

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