



ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

TEXTILE SLAVE LABOUR UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT IN SOUTH AMERICA

News earlier this year that leading High Street fashion chain Zara is again under investigation over the use of sweatshops and child labour raised the age-old spectre of the use of slave labour in the textile garment manufacturing industry.

Reportedly 'degrading' factory conditions in Argentina housed mostly Bolivian labourers, including children, who were made to work up to 16-hour days without breaks and were prevented from leaving the factories without permission, according to investigators.

Authorities moved in on three sweatshops on the outskirts of Buenos Aires after a tip-off from a workers' rights charity. A spokesman for the charity, La Alameda, said people were made to start at 7am and work without a break until as late as 11pm, from Monday to Saturday.

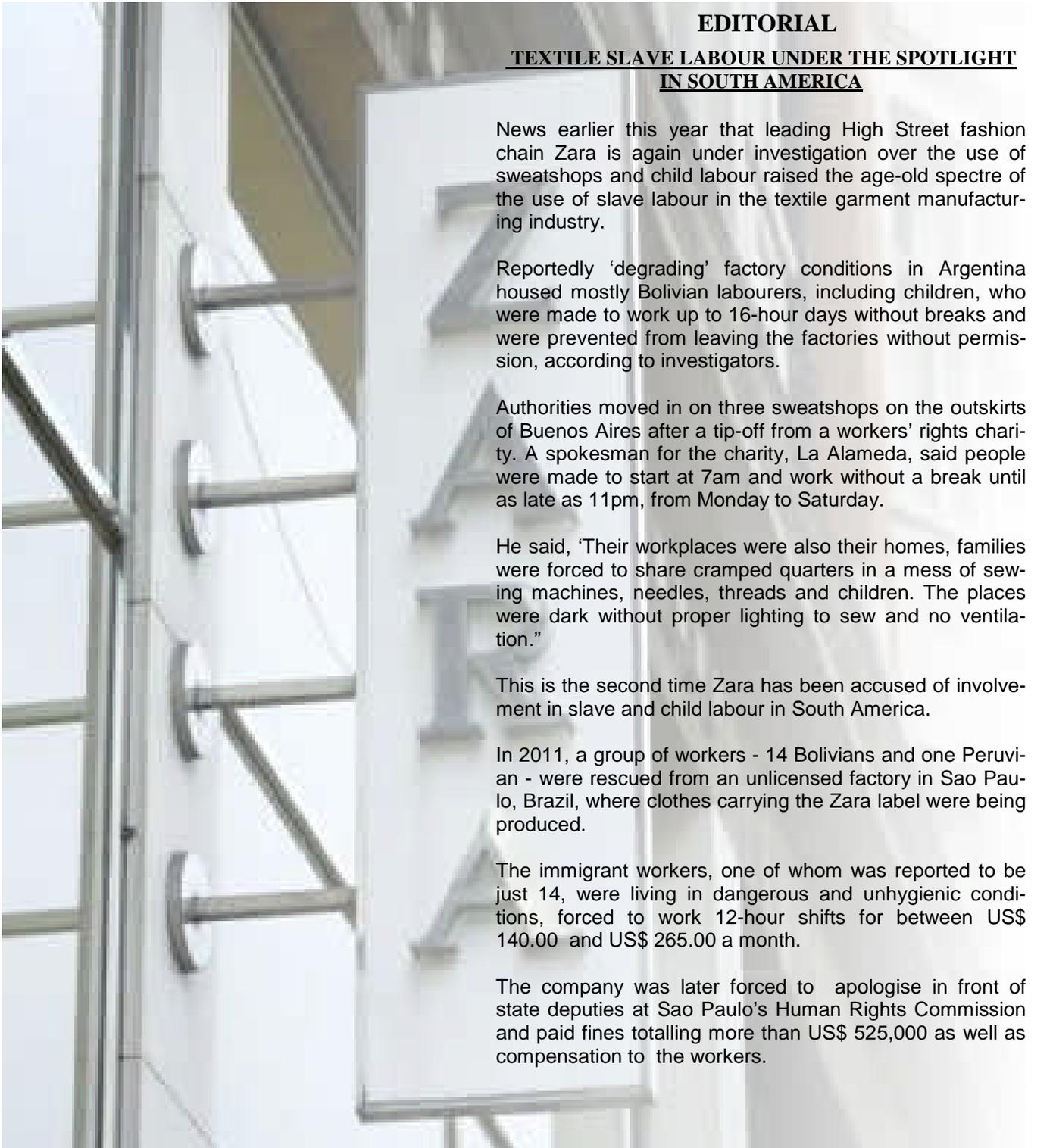
He said, 'Their workplaces were also their homes, families were forced to share cramped quarters in a mess of sewing machines, needles, threads and children. The places were dark without proper lighting to sew and no ventilation.'

This is the second time Zara has been accused of involvement in slave and child labour in South America.

In 2011, a group of workers - 14 Bolivians and one Peruvian - were rescued from an unlicensed factory in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where clothes carrying the Zara label were being produced.

The immigrant workers, one of whom was reported to be just 14, were living in dangerous and unhygienic conditions, forced to work 12-hour shifts for between US\$ 140.00 and US\$ 265.00 a month.

The company was later forced to apologise in front of state deputies at Sao Paulo's Human Rights Commission and paid fines totalling more than US\$ 525,000 as well as compensation to the workers.



The Head of Argentina's Government Control Agency which recently raided the three factories in Buenos Aires producing Zara clothes said, "We found men and children who lived in the place where they worked. They were not registered and they were living in terrible conditions.

They had no official documents and were held against their will, they were not allowed to leave their workplaces without permission."

The Spanish-owned retailer has 1,540 stores worldwide and has seen profits soar over the past three years. Its founder and majority-owner of Inditex, its holding company, is 77-year-old Amancio Ortega.

According to Forbes, he is the world's third richest man.

Zara claimed they had not been officially notified by the Argentinian authorities and their spokesman said, "From the limited information we have, which are the addresses of the workshops, they have no relationship with our suppliers and manufacturers in the country."

He added that Zara has 60 Argentine manufacturers and, in the last two years, has conducted 300 audits of suppliers and factories and would co-operate with the investigation.

CAMELID CLIPS

One month after a law in force since 1978 (No.22342) that promotes the exportation of non-traditional products from Peru, was referred to the government's Work Commission for review as its Article Nos 32, 33 and 34 prohibit workers from collective bargaining, strikes, forming unions or establishing any form of stable working conditions, the international trades union, IndustriAll Global Union has filed a complaint with the same government citing the same concerns over violation of workers' rights.

IndustriAll Global Union, which represents around 50 million workers in manufacturing, energy and mining industries worldwide, has indicated that Peru and Bangladesh are the only two countries that continue to have legislation in place that restricts labour in favour of exports.

For its part, the President of the Textile Garment Making-up Committee of Peru's Exporters' Association (ADEX), Pedro Gamio, said that the country's textile manufacturers do, in fact, respect workers' rights and can be sanctioned by law if they do not. Further, he opined that export customers would undoubtedly buy-

cott the industry's products if they felt that workers' rights in Peru were being violated.



Peru's textile workers' rights are currently under the microscope





The region of Tacna is preparing its alpacas for the coming cold months of June and July

In anticipation of avoiding high mortality rates in alpaca herds during the coldest months of the year in Peru's Tacna Region (June and July), the social programme, *Agro Rural*, has distributed 160 veterinary kits to alpaca farmers with herds of less than 200 animals.

Tacna's main alpaca farming area is located in the districts of Candarave and Tarata and the medicines included in the kits can also be used for sheep.

In the neighbouring Region of Puno, Peru's largest alpaca farming zone, a Regional Ordinance, No.002-2013, has declared the alpaca as an animal that is representative, both typically and ancestrally, of the region.

The ordinance declares it a priority for Puno to implement policies that facilitate and promote the raising of alpacas for the production of its fibre and the protection of its genetic biodiversity.

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A farm in the United Kingdom has brought in an unusual security team to guard its new-born lambs - four alpacas.

Alpacas called Storm, Cloud, Nimbus and Cirrus are protecting sheep and their lambs from foxes on a farm in Wokingham, Berkshire..

The alpacas are on loan from a nearby herd which is usually used to guard hens and ducks.

<= *One of the four alpacas on lamb guarding duty in Wokingham, Berkshire.*



Representatives from PromPeru and Peru's alpaca processing industry meeting in Arequipa on 7th May to initiate a campaign to promote the country's alpaca fibre.

An initiative to increase awareness of Peruvian alpaca worldwide is underway following a meeting between its government's commercial promotional arm, PromPeru, and representatives from the country's alpaca fibre processing sector.

The meeting, which took place in Arequipa on 7th May, was attended by:

Cesar Lutgens and Eliseo De Los Rios - Instituto Peruano de la Alpaca y Camelidos; Derek Michell, Mauricio Chirinos, Herbert Murillo, Cesar Linares and Raul Rivera - Michell y Cia., S.A.; Francois Patthey, Luis Chaves and Roberto Fioretto - Grupo Inca; Angela Reyes, Igor Rojas, Luis Torres and Ignacio Rivera - PromPeru.

It was agreed that the consultancy firm, Future Brands (which established Peru's national logo some

three years ago), be hired to develop a new symbol for Peru's alpaca and that a promotional programme be drawn up by various working committees encapsulating the following areas of interest and activities for commencement in 2014:

- Participation in a number of international Textile Fairs.
- Focused promotion of alpaca worldwide but particularly in China and Russia.
- A series of promotional Fashion Shows worldwide.
- Special invitations to leading textile designers and the textile press to attend the International Alpaca Association's *Alpaca Fiesta 2014* event in Arequipa.
- A series of exclusive alpaca fashion portraits to be taken by renowned Peruvian photographer, Mario Testino.



IAA ALPACA MONTHLY NEW BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly News Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

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