



Stop Child Labor in the Cotton Industry

photos by Youth and Civilization Institute and Oleksiy Petrenko

Thousands of children around the world are forced to pick cotton. In **India**, child workers in the cottonseed industry are often in a state of debt bondage and work at least nine hours a day. Pesticides used during production cause health problems for the children and they report experiencing headaches, convulsions and respiratory problems. The long-term effects of exposure to toxic chemicals have not been measured.

In **Uzbekistan**, one of the world's largest exporters of cotton, as many as two million children are forced to leave school and pick cotton in order to meet government-imposed cotton production quotas. Up to one third of the country's population is conscripted each fall to labor on cotton farms. While the cotton industry is very profitable for a few large landowners and political elites, the vast majority of cotton farmers live in dire poverty. Independent union representation is almost nonexistent for workers.

This cotton is exported to produce the jeans, T-shirts, and other clothing worn by consumers in the United States and in Europe.

What YOU can do:

- Find out more about our campaign to stop child labor in the cotton industry by visiting www.LaborRights.org
- The next time you buy a T-shirt or a pair of jeans, ask the company where their cotton comes from, and how they ensure child labor was not used in its production

Write to the companies below demanding that they:

- Institute a company-wide human rights policy covering their cotton suppliers which bans child labor and upholds core labor rights
- Stop buying cotton from Uzbekistan

Cargill: Gregory Page, Cargill, Inc., PO Box 9300, Minneapolis, MN, 55440-9300

Hanes: Rich Noll, Hanesbrands, Inc., 1000 East Hanes Mill Road, Winston Salem, NC, 27105

Fruit of the Loom: John Holland, Fruit of the Loom, 1 Fruit of the Loom Dr., Bowling Green, KY, 42103



International Labor Rights Forum 2001 S Street NW #420, Washington, DC 20009
E: laborrights@ilrf.org • P: (202) 347-4100 • F: (202) 347-4885